

Utah Extension IPM and Sustainable Agriculture Mini-Grant Program CALL FOR PROPOSALS – 2015

Deadline: January 16, 2015

The IPM and Sustainable Agriculture mini-grants support projects that incorporate educational/research and professional development components to solve sustainable agriculture or pest problems on a county or state level. The goals of the mini-grants are to:

1. Accelerate the adoption of IPM and SA practices in Utah via education outreach to other professionals and to the citizens of Utah.
2. Promote the use of IPM and SA systems in land use decision-making.
3. Provide professional development opportunities for Extension faculty.

Who can apply for funds?

USU Extension personnel may apply for projects affecting single or multi-counties. On- and off-campus faculty are encouraged to collaborate.

Types of Projects Funded

Proposals must incorporate IPM and/or Sustainable Agriculture concepts (see below for definitions), and must include a **professional development** component (such as improving knowledge of project leaders, dissemination of new knowledge to other professionals, etc.)

Proposal types may include a mix of the following:

- Education (online content, written materials, curricula, workshops, etc.)
- Demonstration (farm operation, teaching garden, kiosk, etc.)
- Research

Note: Proposals strictly for research and/or equipment will not be considered.

All past projects may be found on the IPM website at: utahpests.usu.edu/ipm/htm/mini-grants.

Length of Funding Period

Project duration is one year (early February 2015 – late January 2016) and all funds should be spent by the project end date. Although some projects may require multiple years of funding, a new proposal (and reports) must be submitted each year. Subsequent funding of multi-year projects is contingent upon submission of a satisfactory report from the previous year and demonstration of adequate progress.

Funding Information

A total of \$10,000 is available from Utah IPM (\$5,000) and the Western SARE Professional Development Program (\$5,000). Funds can be used for the following:

- technicians (hourly wages)
- supplies
- travel (including travel to professional meetings to present results)
- development and dissemination of educational materials

Funding is up to \$5,000 per proposal.

Because federal funds are used to support these mini-grants, budget oversight and reporting requirements must follow federal guidelines.

What is IPM and Sustainable Agriculture?

Integrated pest management (IPM):

IPM utilizes various management tools and technologies to solve issues dealing with pest management (disease, insect, and weed, along with vertebrate) problems. Methods include pest monitoring and cultural, biological, and chemical techniques with an emphasis on reducing broad-spectrum pesticide use.

Sustainable Agriculture (SA):

Sustainable agriculture promotes good stewardship of natural resources by providing profitable, site-specific farming and ranching methods that strengthen agricultural competitiveness, satisfy human food and fiber needs, maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of soil, conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat, and maintain and improve the quality of surface and ground water. It also enhances the quality of life of farmers and ranchers and ensures the viability of rural communities, along with protecting the health and safety of those involved in food and farm systems.

Proposal Format

Proposals should be brief (maximum of 5 pages) and adhere to the following format:

Title

Project Personnel, which may include:

- Project leader: proposals may have only one project leader
- Project co-leader(s)
- Collaborators (other faculty, producers, others)

Justification

- Brief statement about the problem this project will address
- State the target audience (producers, homeowners, professionals, etc.) that will be affected

Objectives (list numerically)

Procedures

- Describe the working plan/description of methods
- Discuss who will perform the duties, including collaborators

Educational Products (Outputs)

- List products expected to be produced (web content, fact sheet, poster, published article, signage, demonstration sites, etc.).

- Explain how project results will be presented to peers. All project leaders will be required to present results at least one of the following:
 - i. Professional meeting
 - ii. Extension agriculture agents state meeting
 - iii. USU Extension Annual Conference “best management practices” session

Professional Development

- Describe in a few sentences, how this project will improve the knowledge of the project personnel and/or of professional colleagues.
- Describe whether outputs will be distributed to other agricultural professionals and stakeholders (presentations, field day, workshop, etc.).

Evaluation

- Describe your plan to measure changes in knowledge and skills of your target audience (professionals and/or stakeholders) as a result of the project

Project timeline

- In a table or list, provide estimated date ranges and what actions will happen in each timeframe (including evaluation and project presentation)

Budget

Provide a detailed budget which includes the following categories:

Technician wages

- include hourly rate and total number of hours

Supplies

- list products and associated costs
- include any printing or design costs under this category

Travel

- include number of trips, mileage, and reimbursement cost/mile
- include costs (where applicable) to present results at a professional meeting (airfare, hotel, per diem)

Other

Project Expectations

Successful completed projects will include all of the following:

- Educational tools (publication, PowerPoint slideshow, web-based materials, demonstration site/signage, or other educational resource)
- Distribution of these educational tools to other professionals
- Presentation of project results
- Completed WSARE project evaluation forms (provided with grant award notification)
- Proper acknowledgement of WSARE and Utah IPM on all materials produced

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals are evaluated by a committee composed of USU Extension IPM and WSARE staff. Funding is awarded based on the following point scale:

	<i>Points</i>
<i>Justification</i>	10
<i>Objectives</i>	10
<i>Procedures</i>	10
<i>Educational Products, Distribution, and Presentation of Results</i>	30
<i>Evaluation</i>	10
<i>Project Timeline</i>	10
<i>Budget</i>	10
<i>Past performance</i> (if you have never completed a mini-grant project, you will automatically get a score of 10)	10
Total	100

Proposal Deadline/Submission

Email your proposal by **January 16, 2015** to: Marion Murray, marion.murray@usu.edu

Funding Notification and Project Timeline

Notification of proposal awards will be made by **early February**. All project expenditures must be completed by **January 29, 2016**.

Required Reporting

A final report documenting the project's results, educational products, and evaluation results will be due to Marion Murray by **February 29, 2016**.

A guideline for report submission will be emailed to awarded projects in January 2015. The report will include project outputs (publications, images, slideshows, etc.) and WSARE evaluation forms. All materials (except evaluation forms) will be posted on the Utah IPM website.

Contact Information

Please contact Marion Murray (marion.murray@usu.edu, 435-797-0776) or Bob Newhall (bob.newhall@usu.edu, 435-797-2183) if you need assistance with development of project ideas or have any questions about the proposal process.