

National Forage Testing Association 2018 Request for Proposals

The NFTA was founded to improve the accuracy of forage testing and to build grower confidence in testing forages for livestock feed. The National Forage Testing Association (NFTA) (foragetesting.org) announces its 2018 request for research and technology transfer proposals. The NFTA grants were created to support public sector research for forage testing and educational efforts to improve the public understanding and utilization of forage testing. Proposals may be for research or education/technology transfer.

Priority for funding will be for research and technology transfer proposals that will help the NFTA and the forage industry to improve analytical accuracy, repeatability of results, and general reliability of forage quality testing. Educational efforts that increase use of and confidence in forage testing through certified labs will also be a priority.

1. Deadline/Where to send.

Proposals **must be received** by the NFTA office no later than **Thursday, November 15, 2018**. Send an electronic copy of your proposal to: nfta@foragetesting.org

Originals should be sent to: NFTA
PO Box 1470
Stuart, FL 34995

2. Project Funding.

NFTA will support one or two projects for one to two years in the amount of \$15,000 to \$20,000--- per year.

Costs that can be shown to be directly required by project activities will be considered eligible costs for funding. These may include the costs of salaries and benefits for a graduate student, or materials and supplies. Purchase of new equipment is generally not an allowable expense, but may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please include a summary of in-kind contributions and other matching funds. **Indirect or overhead costs will not be covered.**

3. Proposal Content.

Proposals should **not** exceed 3 single-side pages, 12 pt font, with 1" margins. All proposals must include:

- A. Title, Principal Investigator(s), institution, and contact information
- B. Cooperators.
- C. Justification (*need for project and potential impact*). This is a brief, executive overview, not to exceed two paragraphs, using non-technical terms, of how the proposal will help meet the NFTA's goals of improving forage testing, including time lines and goals. Proposals which target improving sample reproducibility and accuracy of analysis, or general reliability of forage analysis are encouraged.
- D. Objectives and Project Needs. This section will detail the scientific overview of the

- proposed project, providing clear, very specific goals, with expected accomplishments.
- E. Procedures and Experimental Plan. A clear and concise description of experiments or investigations in the sequence they will be performed. Include adequate, but not excessive, detail on techniques, protocols, and data analysis procedures. Also, include a discussion of the objectives, detailing the outputs for the term of the proposal, and may include further, long-term goals.
 - F. Expected outcomes and potential benefits.
 - G. Budget: Amount of funds requested for project including justification of expenses.

NFTA policy does not allow indirect or overhead costs on any of its grants, without exception. Funding will not be provided to any institution that requires that indirect or overhead costs be paid.

- H. Current and Pending Support. Required for all researchers submitting proposals. Include Supporting Agency, share of funding, and dates (effective and expiration).
- I. Additional Information (not included in the three pages). Please provide a 2-page biosketch/CV of the principal investigator(s)

4. Project Reporting.

Project reports are to be concise, yet thorough, and focused on outcomes of the objectives, measures of success, and waypoints towards meeting the proposed goals.

- A. For two year projects, a progress report is due to NFTA 12 months after initial funding dispersal, to trigger dispersal of any remaining funds.
- B. Upon completion of grant period, a summary of findings is due within 90 days.
- C. If results are presented and/or published, please provide acknowledgements for support provided by NFTA using the official NFTA logo and provide all publication references to NFTA.