



PENNSYLVANIA VEGETABLE MARKETING & RESEARCH PROGRAM

2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110 | 717-694-3596 | info@PAVeggies.org | PAVeggies.org

Request for Research Grant Proposals for 2024

issued October 9, 2023

General Information

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association is soliciting proposals for research grants for 2024.

The Vegetable Marketing and Research Board requests that researchers submit brief pre-proposals for their consideration this fall. Final selection of projects to be funded will be made early in 2024. Details follow on the second page. Pre-proposals are due NOVEMBER 1, 2023. Any questions regarding this request for proposals should be directed to William Troxell at info@PAVeggies.org.

Research Priorities

Special priority will be given to projects involving the state's three major processing crops, namely **snap beans, tomatoes, and sweet corn**. However, proposals involving fresh-market crops and greenhouse vegetable crops are also solicited. In the spring of 2021, a survey of Pennsylvania growers was conducted to help determine their research needs. Growers identified the following areas as either areas of problems/concern or areas needing research:

Tomato bacterial canker, spot and speck control
Tomato early blight and Septoria leaf spot control
Tomato late blight control
Sweet corn nutrition and spacing to maximize first ear control
Sweet corn earworm control
Sweet corn worm control
Cucurbit powdery mildew control
Cucurbit down mildew control
Cucurbit Phytophthora blight control
Cucurbit cucumber beetles
No-till pumpkin weed control
Herbicide resistant weed control
High tunnel variety selection
High tunnel nutrient management
High tunnel soil health
High tunnel crop rotation
High tunnel biological controls
High tunnel soilborne disease control
High tunnel spider mite control
Organic/sustainable variety selection
Organic/sustainable nutrient management
Organic/sustainable soil health
Evaluation of OMRI approved insect control products
Evaluation of OMRI approved weed control products
Organic/sustainable effects of cover crops on weeds
Organic/sustainable mechanical weed control options

The full results of this grower survey which included additional grower concerns are available at <https://www.paveggies.org/wp-content/uploads/PA-Vegetable-Research-Survey-21-Results.pdf>

Pre-Proposals

Researchers are requested to submit a **brief one paragraph (third-page at the most) description** of their proposed research projects for the Board's review. The pre-proposal should also contain a rough estimate of the amount of funds to be requested.

Pre-proposals must be submitted by **November 1, 2023**, by electronic mail to: info@PAVeggies.org

The Board's Research Committee will consider these pre-proposals at an open meeting on **November 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.** **Researchers are asked to present their pre-proposal at this meeting. While the Board plans to be meeting in-person at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Building, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA, researchers will be welcome to present their pre-proposals virtually rather than in-person if they prefer. Please request log-in information at the email address above when submitting a pre-proposal.** At this meeting the Committee will choose those pre-proposals it wants developed into full proposals for the final selection process. This process will also allow the Board to request researchers to modify a pre-proposal so that it more closely meets the industry's needs. The Board may also request proposals on topics not included in the pre-proposals.

After this meeting, a list of selected pre-proposals and proposal requests will be developed and circulated to researchers. Any questions should be directed to the Program at info@PAVeggies.org.

Final Proposals

Final proposals will be required to be submitted in hard copy format AND electronically to RA-AGCommodities@pa.gov by **January 17, 2024**. Send 18 hard copies of each final proposal to:

Penna. Vegetable Marketing and Research Program
915 Cocklin St.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Please note change of address from previous years!

Arrangements should be made so the hard copies are received by the Program by January 17, 2024.

The Vegetable Marketing and Research Program Board is expected to review all the final proposals, prioritize them and make their final selection at their meeting on January 31, 2024.

If a proposal is accepted but only approved for partial funding, the party submitting the proposal will be given the opportunity to amend it. If a proposal is accepted and fully funded, the Board will require the execution of a formal Research Grant Contract between the researcher's institution and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program. The Program and Association grant funds are not to be used to cover indirect or overhead expenses. Funds shall be used for only those expenses outlined in the work plan and budget in the proposal. Researchers shall not purchase equipment of any type or kind without prior written approval of the Program and only if mandated by the nature of the work and in accordance with the work plan and budget in the proposal.

Any questions should be directed to the Program at info@PAVeggies.org.

Final Proposal Format

Proposals should contain the following sections and provide a comprehensive overview of the project in concise form (**two to three pages**).

- Title: Give the title of the project.
- Personnel: List briefly the name(s) and qualifications of the principal researchers.
- Introduction: Describe briefly the need this project will address, including any background information.
- Objectives: State concisely the purpose of the project, the desired results and potential benefit to growers.
- Work Statement: Explain in detail the actual method(s), procedure(s), location(s), technique(s), and all other pertinent details relative to the implementation of this project.

Budget: List the following:
Hourly Wages
Supplies
Travel
Miscellaneous
Total

Duration of Project: Give the expected duration of the project. The normal contract period will be from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024.

Signatures: Provide the signature(s) of the principal investigator(s) and/or appropriate institution officers.

Inspection

The Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program and/or the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association shall have the option to conduct an "on-site" review of any project by an authorized representative after granting 20-days notice in advance of any intended inspection.

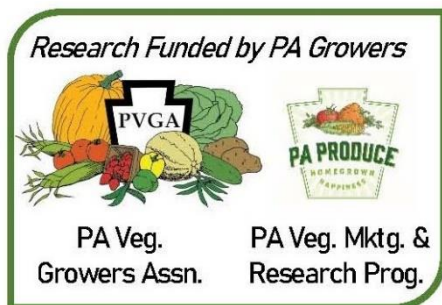
Presentation of Results

Final reports shall be prepared so that growers can readily understand how the project was conducted and how the results impact them in their farming operations. All reports should be three to four pages in length, including any relevant charts or graphs, single spaced with one-inch margins on all sides. Reports should NOT have a separate title page – the title should be incorporated on the first page of the report. The Program reserves the right to edit the reports. Reports will be posted on the Program's website at www.PAVeggies.org and distributed to growers in hardcopy format for those who do not have internet access.

The final report must be submitted by the end of the contract period at the latest by electronic mail to info@PAVeggies.org. Reports should be submitted in either Microsoft Word documents or pdf files. If researchers are able to submit their final reports earlier than the end of the contract period, such as in December or January, that will enable the Program and Association to communicate the results to growers prior to the next growing season and would be greatly appreciated.

The Program and Association also would very much appreciate a short video summary of either the progress of the project or discussion of the results. This video will be made available to growers on the Program and Association's websites.

PLEASE NOTE - Presentations given at grower meetings or other events or articles in publications outlining the results of research supported by these grants are REQUIRED to acknowledge with a slide (in Powerpoint presentations), verbally, or notes that the research was supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association AND the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program. If appropriate, the following graphic can be used for this purpose:



Researchers interested in attending the November meeting virtually are asked to contact info@PAVeggies.org to obtain the login information.