

Grass-Based Livestock Working Group

Request for R&D Project Proposals, October 2009

The Grass-Based Livestock Working Group (GBLWG) has \$21,000 from the Leopold Center for Research and Demonstration (R&D) grants in 2009. We hope to fund three to five proposals, so please limit your funding request to \$7,000 or less. Proposals should have direct relevance to at least one of our four focus areas: 1) profitable grazing management; 2) grazing, wildlife, and the environment; 3) grass-based branding and supply chains; and 4) grazing policy and education. Combined projects that address multiple focus areas are certainly allowed, but please consider available funds when developing budgets. We strongly encourage proposals that leverage funds, cash and/or in-kind, from other sources.

Project leaders or representatives are expected participate in the Grass-Based Livestock Working Group, at least for the duration of the project, and preferably should work in interdisciplinary partnerships with other GBLWG members and member organizations. Representatives of private, for-profit businesses are not eligible to be project leaders, but can certainly act as partners or consultants in proposed projects. Project teams will provide regular status updates to the working group, and submit a final report at the close of the project. Maximum project time frame is one year, beginning January 1, 2009 and ending December 31, 2010. Please plan to expend all project funds by that date, as project extensions are highly unlikely.

A successful R&D grant proposal will have five parts:

1. Cover Page: includes project title, project leader(s) with contact information, total funds requested, and project beginning/ending dates.
2. Project Summary: in one page or less, provides background as to why the proposed work is important, explains how the proposed project fits into the GBLWG focus areas, and describes expected outcomes and impacts of the project.
3. Work Plan: describes objectives of the project, strategies that will be used to meet those objectives, who will be responsible for performing the strategies, a timeline for when actions will be performed, and any deliverables (e.g. educational or data products) that will result.
4. Evaluation: explains how progress will be monitored during the project, how objectives will be measured, and how degree of success will be determined at the close of the project.
5. Budget and Narrative: itemizes planned expenditures for project, and explains how totals in each line were reached. See <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/research/grantees.htm#forms> for templates. Narrative should also detail matching funds, both monetary and in-kind.

If requested funds will be used to support an ongoing project, the proposal should include an explanation of how the requested work and its expected outcomes are addressing GBLWG priorities. Funds from GBLWG cannot be used for major equipment purchases or for operating capital of a private business.

Proposals should be clear and concise. Proposals are due in electronic form to Andy Larson at allarso1@iastate.edu or 2303 Agronomy Hall, Ames, IA 50011, by **5:00pm on Thursday, December 3rd, 2009**. Proposals will be reviewed by the GBLWG Steering Committee, and award decisions announced publicly at the December 2009 meeting of the Grass-Based Livestock Working Group. For information on currently funded GBLWG R&D projects, as well as further information on reporting, budgeting, and potential outside resources, please see <http://www.valuechains.org/livestock/grants.htm>.

Best of luck! Please direct questions to Andy Larson, allarso1@iastate.edu or (515) 294-5875.