

## **Request for proposals for capital equipment proposals**

*UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences*

The Dairy Innovation Hub, which launched in 2019, is a \$7.8 million per year investment by the State of Wisconsin to build a world-class talent pool and enable bold discoveries to ensure that Wisconsin's dairy community is at the global forefront in producing nutritious dairy products in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable manner.

As one aspect of enabling novel and high-impact research within the priority areas of the Dairy Innovation Hub, funds are available for acquisition of equipment that will enable high-impact projects that will fit within one of the four priority areas of the Hub (visit the [Hub website](#) for more information):

1. Steward Land and Water Resources
2. Enrich Human Health and Nutrition
3. Ensure Animal health and Welfare
4. Grow Farm Businesses and Communities

The objective of these grants is to increase research capacity in the Dairy Innovation Hub's four priority areas by providing key pieces of farm or laboratory capital equipment, or a comparable research resource, that creates novel capacity for high-impact research.

### **Highlighted differences from first capital equipment RFP:**

- Matching funds required if cost exceeds \$100,000
- Selection of one top priority area (a secondary can be identified); Justification of fit to priority area(s)
- Review criteria listed in RFP
- New Hub PI status may be indicated
- A non-technical summary is included on the cover page.

Proposals must be submitted via WISPER. To be accepted, proposals must have all approvals (Chair/Administrator/Co-PIs) and include the full proposal as detailed below. The short title (WISPER) must be "UW Dairy Innovation Hub: Equipment", document type "other", and be routed to Casey Hillmer. Questions regarding the proposal should be directed to Maria Woldt, [maria.woldt@wisc.edu](mailto:maria.woldt@wisc.edu).

**Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on February 4, 2021. Decisions will be made by March 2021 for purchases to be made in the current fiscal year.**

Awards are expected to be made in the range of \$5,000 to \$100,000. If the equipment cost exceeds \$100,000 the PI must provide evidence of matching funds. Submitting PIs need to have formal UW-Madison PI status.

**Application materials to be submitted (to be uploaded as 1 pdf file; quotes can be uploaded as a 2nd pdf if lengthy):**

- Cover page and 250-word non-technical summary ([Excel tab “cover page”](#)).
  - The Short Title (WISPER) must be “UW Dairy Innovation Hub: Equipment”, document type “other”; also include a descriptive title on the cover page.
  - Include names of PI, co-PIs, and participating faculty/staff/students participating, and up to two Dairy Innovation Hub Priority area(s) the project addresses.
  - To qualify for “new Hub PI” status, PI cannot have received Hub funding prior to Jan 2021 (excludes faculty startup support and other pending RFPs). New Hub PI status is independent of career stage.
  - Include a 250-word non-technical summary of the equipment, what capacity it brings to UW-Madison research, how the PI and co-PIs will benefit from the additional equipment, and the cost of equipment.
- A brief (2-page maximum) proposal containing the following:
  - Provide a justification of how the equipment is essential for research and how it will create novel or expanded capital equipment capacity for high-impact research that does not currently exist within CALS. The burden to convey the novelty and importance of the proposed equipment, and the value of the equipment to the Dairy Innovation Hub priority areas, is on the PI.
  - Identify the Hub priority area most relevant (a secondary priority area may also be identified) to the project. The proposal should include a justification of fit to priority area and how the outcomes of this project will contribute to progress within Wisconsin, relative to the priority area.
  - A list of researchers who will benefit from the equipment (preference will be given to proposals that will benefit multiple investigators).
  - Description of future extramurally funded research proposals that will benefit from acquiring the proposed equipment.
  - Letters of support must be provided by each investigator detailing the research in their program that will benefit from the equipment
  - Estimated cost of equipment, with at least three quotes, or one quote with justification of selected vendor.

## **Proposal Review Process**

Proposals will be reviewed by a reviewer group comprised of DIH steering committee members and ad-hoc reviewers.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Novel capacity that removes a current limitation or bottleneck in research aims (40%)
2. Impact of supported research on the Wisconsin's dairy community and fit to identified priority area (30%)
3. Equipment purchase will benefit multiple researchers (20%)
4. Meets "New Hub PI" criteria (10%)

Scores will not be provided back to PIs; however, synthesis feedback on proposal will be provided with decision letter.

**If you have questions regarding appropriateness or fit of a proposed item to this RFP, please contact Heather White [heather.white@wisc.edu](mailto:heather.white@wisc.edu).**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: How will equipment purchases be made?**

A: If selected for funding, acquisition of PO and equipment will be through the PIs department. A Hub account number will be provided.

### **Q: Are there expectations that come with this funding?**

A: As with all funding, there are reporting expectations. The Hub has to report financial and research outcomes on a fiscal year basis. Researchers will be asked to complete an online submission form twice a year. The form is brief and very similar to Hatch reporting so to minimize administrative burden on the PI. You or a collaborator on the project may be asked to participate in the Dairy Summit which is anticipated to be an annual event (in Wisconsin) which will include opportunities to present research.

**If you have remaining questions, please contact Maria Woldt ([maria.woldt@wisc.edu](mailto:maria.woldt@wisc.edu)) or Heather White ([heather.white@wisc.edu](mailto:heather.white@wisc.edu)).**