

Dairy Industry Impact and Innovation - Faculty Fellowships (DI³ Faculty Fellowships)

The UW Dairy Innovation Hub 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 farmers, processors, and related agribusinesses will be at the global forefront in producing nutritious dairy products in an economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable manner. The work of the Dairy Innovation Hub focuses on four priority areas. More information can be found at the current DIH website (<https://dairyinnovationhub.wisc.edu/>). **The deadline for submission of proposals is March 23, 2026.** Submit complete applications to Tera Montgomery (montgomeryt@uwplatt.edu). Funding decisions will be made by members of the UW-Platteville Dairy Innovation Hub Steering Committee and the DIH Advisory Councils.

Research projects must link to *at least one* of the following focus areas:

- Steward Land and Water Resources
- Enrich Human Health and Nutrition
- Ensure Animal health and Welfare
- Grow Farm Businesses and Communities

Dairy Industry Impact and Innovation (DI³) Faculty Fellowships will utilize funding available beginning July 1, 2026 (FY27-FY28). The intent of this program is to **increase research capacity** at UW-Platteville by providing current faculty time and support funds to conduct research in alignment with the Dairy Innovation Hub priorities and goals. Two-year proposals of \$10,000 to \$50,000 will be considered.

Research time may come in the form of reassigned time from current teaching duties and/or summer salary. Faculty may request up to:

- 1) 25% reassigned time (with written approval for teaching backfill)
- 2) One month summer salary for each faculty member involved per year
 - Total summer salary from all sources cannot exceed the 2/9 summer salary policy
- 3) \$10,000 in annual supplies, equipment, and Pioneer Farm fees (for a total of \$20,000)
 - No publication fees, conference or travel expense support should be included; there will be a separate RFP for those expenses as they occur (with the exception of travel to farm or research stations, no per diem for meals)
- 4) Annual student salary up to \$3,000 (for a total of \$6,000)
 - Applicants are encouraged to apply to the Summer Undergraduate Scholars Program for the potential to leverage funding
 - Applicants are also encouraged to consider how to involve capstone projects across campus, such as Senior Design projects in EMS

Award timeframe – Two years with the possibility of renewal. Bi-annual progress reports will be required and reviewed for satisfactory results to justify continued funding.

Decisions will be announced by April 24, 2026.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Justification for fit to at least one Dairy Innovation Hub Priority area (20%)

2. Description of the tangible outputs to end users – farmers, dairy food processors, etc. This should include information about financial impacts of the research and how they will be reported (25%)
3. Detailed description of how the project is relevant to, and will have a strong impact on, the Wisconsin dairy community (25%)
4. Involvement of undergraduate students (20%)
5. Illustration of collaboration across campus (10%)

To allow for the greatest opportunity for funding across the university, faculty should limit themselves to involvement in one proposal. Previous Dairy Innovation Hub funding will be considered during review of the proposals so that a greater number of faculty will have the opportunity for this research funding. Faculty who have not followed the guidelines laid out for the DI³ Faculty Fellowships will likely not be eligible for funding in subsequent years.

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 call, please contact Tera Montgomery: montgomeryt@uwplatt.edu, 608-342-6027.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are there expectations that come with this funding?

A: As with all funding, there are reporting and dissemination 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 up to twice per year. You or a collaborator on the project are expected to participate in the Dairy Summit or the Dairy Symposium, both of which are annual events (in Wisconsin) that include opportunities to present research. Other media requests may come to the researchers that should be considered a high priority for response. If expectations are not met, future Hub funding for the faculty is at risk.

Q: What expenses are allowable in the budget?

A: The annual budget can be used for **faculty** salary (fringe to be included at 41.8%), research (lab, field, farm) supplies or consumables, undergraduate hourly expenses (fringe to be included at 5.0%), travel to farm or research station (no per diem for meals), technology or computing (hardware or software) needs that are specific to the project. Expenses should be justified within the budget justification. A separate RFP will be available annually for publication fees, and travel for conferences where research will be presented.

Q: How will the funds be dispersed?

A: An account will be set up for use by the faculty. Projects can be two years in length and carry-over between the first and second year will be allowable. These fellowships are internal grants that are **managed separately** from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). All questions should be directed to Tera Montgomery, Campus DIH Liaison.

For additional questions, please contact Tera Montgomery (montgomeryt@uwplatt.edu).

DI³ Faculty Fellowships Application Materials

Applications must include a cover page with the following information ([use fillable PDF](#)):

- Name, Department, and College of all Faculty Members
- Proposal Title
- Hub Priority area(s) addressed
- Preference list items addressed (if any)
- Brief summary of project, including relevance of project to the dairy industry (250 words)

Additional application materials to be included in project proposal are listed below:

- Description of proposed work (no more than 3 pages) including goals, methodology, expected outcomes and deliverables
 - Successful proposals will **clearly state** how the work will contribute to at least one of the focus areas and the relevance to the dairy industry and the tangible outputs of the research. We recommend refraining from getting too technical in your descriptions of the proposed work.
- Timeline of activities
- Letter of support from a farmer, processor or other dairy industry professional, highlighting the need for the proposed work
- Budget ([using the budget template](#)) and budget justification including, but not limited to
 - Salaries (only faculty and student salaries are allowed) plus fringe
 - Supplies, equipment, and any costs associated with use of Pioneer Farm
- Description of grants or other funding already secured. This should include previous DI³ Faculty Fellowships, regardless of the relationship of the projects to each other
- Anticipated opportunities for leveraging additional funds to support or continue project
- Dissemination plans (must include presentation at DIH event – Dairy Summit or Dairy Symposium)
- Approvals
 - REQUIRED: School or Department Chair letter of approval and plan for teaching backfill (if joint proposal across two or more departments, include approval and plan from all chairs)
 - ACUC and/or IRB approval, if needed, must be obtained before release of funding
 - Pioneer Farm Director approval is required if the project utilizes Pioneer Farm resources.
 - Please refer to the Pioneer Farm Per Diem Policy for farm-related expenses (contact Tera Montgomery for a copy of the policy if needed).