



## Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) – Research Request for Proposals (RFP)

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**This opportunity contains time-sensitive deadlines.**

**Please distribute to the appropriate faculty and staff as soon as possible.**

- **ISA RFP Distributed:** March 12, 2026
  - **Proposal Deadline:** May 11, 2026 (11:59 PM)
  - **ISA Board Review and Funding Decisions:** July 2026
  - **FY27 Funding Cycle:** October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
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### Overview

The Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) is seeking research proposals for projects beginning **October 1, 2026**. The ISA Board funds projects that advance its mission to **increase soybean farmer competitiveness through improved productivity, profitability, and sustainability**. ISA supports **applied and basic research, as well as Extension and Outreach**, that provide **practical short- and long-term benefits to Iowa soybean farmers**.

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### Priority Research Areas

Proposals should align with one of the following focus areas:

#### **Soybean Germplasm Discovery and Improvement**

- Breeding efforts to **increase genetic yield potential and introduce defensive traits**

#### **Pest and Disease Management**

- Biology, management, and yield loss mitigation for diseases, nematodes, insect pests, abiotic stresses

#### **Weed Management**

- Weed management strategies within **soybean cropping systems**

#### **Nutrient and Water Management**

- Soybean production practices that **improve nutrient management and water quality**

#### **Post-Harvest Seed Handling**

- Practices to **maintain or improve seed quality after harvest**

#### **Soybean Production Systems and Agronomics**

- Soybean cropping system production practices, agronomics, and management to enhance productivity, profitability, and sustainability, including digital agriculture, new technologies, and modeling for research, production, and economic impact.
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### Proposal Requirements

**Written proposal** - includes the following:

- Cover Sheet and Budget Summary Spreadsheet (*form provided*)
- Proposal Template (*form provided*) – **concise and targeted to farmer audience**
- Allowed and not allowed expenses (*provided for reference only – do not include with submission*)

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### Proposal Requirements *(continued)*

#### Short Video Summary:

- Submit a **3-minute (or less) video** for the ISA Farmer Board of Directors that:
    - Summarizes the research project
    - Explains **how it will benefit Iowa soybean farmers**
    - Describes how it will help farmers become more **productive, profitable, and/or sustainable**
    - Outlines the **expected outcomes for Iowa farmers or the soybean industry**
  - Video guidelines
    - Resolution: 1080p at 30 fps
    - Record horizontally (landscape)
    - Center the subject in the frame
    - Most modern cell phones meet these requirements
  - Dropbox file share location:
    - <https://www.dropbox.com/request/MRmph0hLNgM7gtemL9gP>
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### General Information

For **multi-year proposals**, continued funding will depend on the progress demonstrated and meaningful results from earlier years.

Researchers are strongly encouraged to pursue **interdisciplinary collaborations**, including partnerships with **other institutions**, when appropriate. Prior conversation is recommended if you would like to partner with or leverage ISA's Research Center for Farming Innovation.

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### Submission Process

Information and application materials can be found on the ISA website listed below.

ENSURE YOU HAVE THE FILES SAVED TO YOUR COMPUTER BEFORE EDITING

[www.iasoybeans.com/research/request-for-proposal](http://www.iasoybeans.com/research/request-for-proposal)

Researchers interested in submitting a proposal **should provide an electronic copy of the cover sheet and budget summary in PDF format, and the proposal in Microsoft Word format or PDF format** and send to David Kurth at [dkurth@iasoybeans.com](mailto:dkurth@iasoybeans.com). The **video** should be uploaded to the **Dropbox link** list above.

Questions can be addressed to David Kurth 515-334-1033 or Joe McClure, ISA Staff Lead of Productivity Committee, telephone 515-334-1014 or email at [jmclure@iasoybeans.com](mailto:jmclure@iasoybeans.com).

*Funds granted through this program are checkoff funds contributed to Qualified State Soybean Boards pursuant to the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, 7 U.S.C. 6304 (1) (4). Work performed under this Agreement will be performed in accordance with the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act and the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, 7 CFR Part 1220.*

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