



Memorandum

From: Tim McGreevy, CEO

Date: October 9, 2026

Re: USA Pulses Industry Research Proposals

Annual Call for Research Proposals: FY 2027-28

The USA Pulses requests research proposals investigating pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, chickpeas and dry beans) for the 2027-28 fiscal year. Plans of work will be accepted for research on the following topics:

Research Strategic Plan and Industry Priorities

- I. Breeding & Variety Trials & Genetics
- II. Crop Management & Sustainability
- III. Nutrition & Health Benefits
- IV. Product Development

The average award amount is approximately \$30,000, with typical awards ranging from \$16,000 to \$75,000. The USA Pulses strategic plan prioritizes the funding decision-making process.

Research proposals may focus on one or multiple topics listed above. For example, “Improving Nutritional Factors of Pulses through Breeding and Crop Management” would cover three priorities. Transdisciplinary work plans that span disciplines, expertise, and institutions are encouraged and expected. The committee will support projects that tackle a complex research challenge with an integrated approach.

Research proposals for equipment purchases exceeding \$10,000 will not be considered in this call for proposals. Any equipment requests below \$10,000 will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please note there are specific instructions for variety trial proposals, especially regarding the proposal budget and reporting. Information on variety trial research is available on the [USA Pulses Research webpage](https://usapulses.org/industry/research-innovation) under *Variety Trial Guidelines* (<https://usapulses.org/industry/research-innovation>).

The Research Committee is interested in projects that may increase research funding through matching dollars. Researchers are encouraged to submit proposals that utilize industry funding to secure matching grants for research through USDA grants or other specialized funding sources.

Submissions for this research cycle must be received by December 4, 2026, to be considered for review. Submissions received after the due date will not be accepted.



Directions for Submission:

- Proposals must use the provided template and refrain from making any changes to the document format, retaining the 11-point Times font and single spacing. **No formatting should be added or removed.**
- Proposals must be submitted via Dropbox as a single PDF and MS Word document. Submit here: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/ibjg5zsn9iffhrxfd9zi>
- Proposals are limited to a maximum of seven pages (not including references).
- All acronyms must be written out on the first instance of use.

Make sure to fill in the template to include the following:

Page One – Cover Page

- Proposal Title
- Principal Investigator's name and contact information
- Names and contact information of co-investigators, if applicable
- The total budget request, including the percentage for each topic area

Project Description (3 pages max)

- Abstract no longer than 250 words
- Introduction and Background Information - Provide information specific to your proposal. General information about pulse crops is unnecessary.
- Proposed objectives and the specific outcomes that will be addressed in the course of the project
- Rationale and significance - Description of the problem and its importance
- Research methods – Describe the methods that will be used

Budget (1 page max)

- Budget for the project
- Include justification
- In the budget statement, indicate the amount associated with each of the Research Strategic Plan Industry Priorities, i.e. Topics (I to IV)
- Include current matching funding and prospects for research grants based on the proposed work.

Principal Investigator's information

- An abbreviated *curriculum vitae* (1-page max)
- An abbreviated publication record (1-page max)

It is the PI's responsibility to ensure that related University/Organization procedures to approve funding requests are followed and that the proposal receives approval from all appropriate institutional review boards. Please note that **the USA Pulses does not pay indirect costs.**



Associated Timelines for this Research Grant process (subject to change).

- Release of RFP : October 9, 2026
- Deadline for Submission : December 4, 2026
- Joint Research Review Presentations : February 23 and 24, 2027 (tentative)
Applicants will be asked to present a brief overview of the proposal. Presentations may be in person or via video teleconference. The research review will be held in Moscow, Idaho.
- USA Pulses budgeting process finalized : June 2027
- FY 27-28 budgets approved by Board : July 2027
- Award notices : July 2027
- Contracts with USA Pulses and Institutions : August 2027
- Progress reports due : June 2028
- Final reports due : December 2028

If you have any questions, please contact Genevieve Taylor at gtaylor@usapulses.org

***All information and activities associated with this RFP, proposals, review process, research presentations, published results, and findings are public information. It is the responsibility of the PI to identify any information or content that is to be considered confidential.*

Thank you in advance for your interest in pulse crop research. Please note that the Northern Pulse Growers Association (NPGA) will also release a call for proposals during a similar time frame. The NPGA proposals will undergo ranking, prioritization, and award recommendations by their association. However, the USA Pulses and NPGA will jointly coordinate the February 2027 Research Review. Also, please consider monitoring and applying for funds through the USDA with the Pulse Crop Health Initiative (PCHI), National Sclerotinia Initiative (NSI), and National Institute of Food and Agriculture-Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (NIFA-AFRI).

We look forward to your proposals!

Sincerely,

Tim D. McGreevy, CEO
USA Pulses