



CENTER *for* INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

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Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems 2017 Graduate Student Summer Mini-Grant Program Deadline: March 17, 2017

The Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS) invites graduate student applications for our summer mini-grant program, which is made possible through a generous donation from the Single Step Foundation. These awards will provide up to \$2,000 for graduate student research aligned with the work of CIAS (<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/>). This year, we are particularly interested in proposals on: organic agriculture; local and regional food systems; and perennial agriculture. See the next page for detailed descriptions of these priority areas. Undergraduate research is not eligible for funding through this program. Grant-funded work must be completed by August 30, 2017. Previous awards are described at <http://go.wisc.edu/tfnn30>.

Funds may be used for student salary (up to a maximum of \$1,000), travel required to conduct research, farmer honoraria and supplies. Funds cannot be used for travel to conferences and meetings. The applicant's faculty advisor must currently be, or must be willing to become, a faculty associate of CIAS (<http://go.wisc.edu/4r0t1f>). Contact Mike Bell, CIAS Director, at michaelbell@wisc.edu for information about becoming a CIAS faculty associate.

Successful applicants are required to fulfil the post-award requirements described on the next page.

Applications must include:

- 1) A one- to two-page project narrative including a project justification, work plan, and description of project alignment with one or more of the CIAS mini-grant priority areas
- 2) A detailed budget narrative explaining how the funds will be used. If salary is included, it may not exceed \$1,000. If you are already on the UW payroll, please detail your appointment type and percent effort, department, and departmental administrative contact.
- 3) Your resume or CV
- 4) Your faculty advisor must send an email confirming support of your project directly to Cris Carusi, cecarusi@wisc.edu, with the subject line "[applicant name] support letter." This should *not* be submitted with your application.

All applicants who submit materials by March 17, 2017 are assured consideration. Please submit your full application—items 1-3, above—as a single PDF document with your first and last name in the file name (for instance: Bucky-Badger.pdf). Email your application as a file attachment to Minigra.3dz43b1n2ioy6ip5@u.box.com (this is an email address). Electronic copies only, please. The confirmation of support from your faculty advisor should be submitted separately (see instructions, above).

If your application is selected for funding, CIAS will disburse the funds in two payments. Up to 75 percent of the award will be available by May 15, 2017 (any awarded salary will be paid through payroll). The final 25 percent of the award will be released upon successful completion of all post-award requirements. See below for details, and understand that submission of a grant proposal indicates that you agree to complete these post-award requirements.

Post-award requirements

All students receiving mini-grants will need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Attend a mandatory, half-day training on environmental leadership at the Aldo Leopold Foundation near Baraboo in the fall of 2017 (details TBA)
- Provide a high-resolution (300dpi) photo of yourself, preferably doing field work
- Submit a 1-2 page summary of your research at the end of the summer
- Give a 15-minute presentation to CIAS staff and faculty during the 2017 fall semester
- Write a thank-you letter to the Single Step Foundation. CIAS will provide guidelines for writing your thank-you letter.

CIAS mini-grant priority areas

Organic agriculture: This priority area encompasses organic crop and livestock production, marketing, consumer demand, policy, education and other related issues.

Local and regional food systems: This priority area includes activities from farm to table at local and regional scales. CIAS works on both farm-to-consumer direct marketing strategies and efforts to “scale up” production, distribution and marketing of local food to schools, institutions, restaurants and other retail locations. Labor and fair trade, land access for beginning farmers, agriculture of the middle and minority farmers are other areas of interest.

Perennial agriculture: This priority area focuses on perennial cropping, and perennial forage systems for livestock. Research could include but is not limited to the following topics: marketing opportunities for perennial crops, ecosystem services provided by perennial agriculture systems, economics of diversified crop/livestock systems, managed grazing for livestock production, and strategies for incorporating greater perennial cover into agricultural landscapes.

If you have questions about the mini-grant program or the application process, contact Cris Carusi, cecarusi@wisc.edu, 608-262-8018 or Michelle Miller, mmmille6@wisc.edu, 608-262-7135.