



CENTER *for* INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Research Division, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

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Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems 2018 Graduate Student Summer Mini-Grant Program Call for Proposals Deadline: March 16, 2018

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 \$2,500 for graduate student research aligned with the work of CIAS (<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/>). This year, we are particularly interested in proposals on: local and regional food systems; continuous living cover; and urban 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 31, 2018. Previous awards are described at <http://go.wisc.edu/tfnn30>.

Funds may be used for student salary (up to a maximum of \$1,250), 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 fulfill the post-award requirements described on the next page. Submission of a proposal indicates that you agree to complete these post-award requirements.

Applications must include:

- 1) A one- to two-page project narrative including a project title, justification, work plan, and description of project alignment with one or more of the CIAS mini-grant priority areas
- 2) A detailed budget and budget narrative explaining how the funds will be used. If salary is included, it may not exceed \$1,250. 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.

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). All applicants who submit materials by March 16, 2018 are assured consideration. When your full application is ready, please submit it through this Google form: <https://go.wisc.edu/vv0ukt>. 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, 2018 (any awarded salary will be paid through payroll). The final \$500 of the award will be released upon successful completion of all 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 2018 (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 2018 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

Local and regional food systems: This priority area includes sustainable and organic 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, multi-farm collaboration on value-added agriculture, and minority farmers are other areas of interest.

Continuous living cover: This priority area focuses on the use of winter cover crops, deep-rooted perennial crops (including perennial grain), agroforestry, pasture, and other types of year-round living vegetation to protect soil health and water quality. Research could include but is not limited to the following topics: ecosystem services provided by continuous living cover, economics of perennial cropping systems, managed grazing for livestock production, continuous living cover in organic production systems, and strategies for incorporating greater perennial cover into agricultural landscapes.

Urban agriculture: This priority area focuses on research and partnerships with community-based food organizations to build inclusive, sustainable urban food systems and increase food security in urban areas. Projects could include, but are not limited to, urban food production, equitable access to healthy food in urban areas, and participatory research with community organizations (including schools).

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.