



# 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 2023 Graduate Student Summer Mini-Grant Program Call for Proposals Deadline: March 24, 2023, 5pm

The Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS) invites UW-Madison 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 \$3,000 for graduate student research aligned with the work of CIAS (<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/>). We are particularly interested in proposals regarding animal health and welfare, local and regional food systems, continuous living cover, and equity and food sovereignty. See the next page for detailed descriptions of these priority areas. Undergraduate research is not eligible for funding through this program. While previous awardees may apply to fund new projects, priority will be given to first-time applicants. Grant-funded work must be completed by August 31, 2023. Previously awarded projects can be viewed [here](#). If you have questions about the application process, contact Frankie Anderson at [fnderson@wisc.edu](mailto:fnderson@wisc.edu).

Funds may be used for student salary, 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](#).** Contact Michelle Miller ([mmmille6@wisc.edu](mailto:mmmille6@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. Name, email address, student ID, citizenship status, degree program
  - b. Faculty advisor's name and department
  - c. Project title, justification, work plan, description of project alignment with one or more of the priority areas on the next page, and a description of participatory approaches and practitioner involvement in your work.
- 2) A detailed budget and budget narrative explaining how the funds will be used. 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 Frankie Anderson at [fnderson@wisc.edu](mailto:fnderson@wisc.edu), with the subject line "[applicant name] CIAS proposal approval" (no additional text or details are necessary). This should be submitted separately from your application.

**Please save items 1-3, above, as a single PDF document** with your first and last name in the file name (for instance: Bucky-Badger.pdf). When your full application is ready, please email your application to [fnderson@wisc.edu](mailto:fnderson@wisc.edu). The confirmation of support from your faculty advisor should be emailed separately.

## 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 2023 (details TBA)
- Provide a high-resolution photo of yourself, preferably doing field work
- Submit a 1-2 page summary of your research findings at the end of the summer
- Present your research to CIAS staff and faculty during the 2023 fall semester
- Write a thank-you letter to the Single Step Foundation. CIAS will provide guidelines for writing your thank-you letter.
- Acknowledge CIAS in all presentations and publications related to the project. We will provide language and logo.

If your application is selected for funding, CIAS will disburse the funds in two payments. Up to 80 percent of the award will be available by mid-May. The final \$500 of the award will be released upon successful completion of all post-award requirements.

## CIAS mini-grant priority areas

**Animal health and welfare:** This new priority area considers several aspects of on-farm animal rearing and harvest, and places high priority on the wellbeing of farm animals by providing for their basic needs. Research could include but is not limited to: innovations in grazing systems, stress reduction strategies, on-farm processing options, record keeping approaches, etc.

**Local and regional food systems:** This priority area includes sustainable and organic activities from farm to table at local and regional scales. CIAS faculty and staff work 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, market structure and access for local food, farm viability, agriculture of the middle and multi-farm collaboration on value-added agriculture 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.

**Equity and food sovereignty:** This priority area focuses on participatory research and partnerships with farmers, community-based organizations, tribal communities and others working on issues related to food sovereignty and equity in the food system. Project topics could include, but are not limited to: urban agriculture, community-based food production, equitable access to healthy food, seed saving, foodways, and land access.