



CSANR BIOAg Grant Program

Request for Proposals — Fiscal Year 2026

What Is the BIOAg Grant Program?

The Biologically Intensive Agriculture and Organic Farming (BIOAg) program strategically funds WSU research and outreach activities that improve agriculture, natural resources, and food systems.

The BIOAg program was established in 2006 by Washington stakeholders and WSU's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR), with support from the Washington State Legislature. The program helps farmers, ranchers, and land managers develop and verify effective sustainable agriculture strategies.

Focus

- **Biologically intensive agriculture:** Farming practices that rely on renewable, non-polluting biological and ecological processes that benefit both farmers and society
- **Organic agriculture:** Management practices meeting USDA National Organic Program standards
- **Sustainable agriculture:** Systems that are economically viable, environmentally sound, and result in positive community impact

What We Fund

We primarily fund projects that help faculty generate preliminary data for major grant applications, with additional support for completing high-impact research, and developing promising new directions, including:

- **Seed funding:** new research to generate preliminary data for external grants
- **Last-mile funding:** extension products or innovative activities that results in impacts
- **Emergent ideas funding:** develop new directions that have emerged from existing work

Quick Facts

- **Award Range:** \$10,000–\$40,000
- **Funding Period:** May 2026–December 2027 (with possible 6-month extension)
- **Success Rate:** 30–50% of proposals funded

Proposal Guidelines & Restrictions

Eligibility

- Lead PI must be WSU faculty in good standing in the BIOAg Program
- Each faculty member may submit one proposal as lead PI and one proposal as co-PI
- Faculty may only have one currently funded project as lead PI and/or co-PI at a time
- New applicants are strongly encouraged
- Graduate student support is highly encouraged

Restrictions

- BIOAg funds may not be used for the development or commercialization of crops or livestock using genetic engineering
- Funds may not be used for faculty salary augmentation (summer or supplemental salary)
- Reasonable salary requests may be made for soft-money funded faculty and staff
- Projects should prioritize agricultural needs relevant to Washington State

Submission Requirements

Submit these materials as Word documents to csater@wsu.edu by December 15, 2025:

- Completed proposal
 - Use [the FY26 Application Form](#). Applications not on this form will not be reviewed.
 - For seed funding, proposals must clearly identify the extramural grant program(s) they expect to pursue as the next step, and explain why that program is appropriate.
- Two-page biographical sketch for each PI/co-PI in USDA NIFA or NSF format
- Optional: one additional page for supplementary graphics/tables only. Use of this page for narrative text may disqualify the proposal.

Post-Award Requirements

Awardees will be required to:

- Complete standard WSU **grant compliance paperwork** before funds are released
- Submit a **progress report** by December 3, 2026 with at least two photos of you/your team working on your project; photos may be used for CSANR social media and website
- Commit to an online **interview** between January and November 2027 to help CSANR produce a blog post highlighting your project
- Submit a **final report** by December 2, 2027 with at least two photos of your project

Application Timeline & Process

Date	Deliverable/Announcement
November 19, 2025	Letter of intent (optional, but recommended)
December 15, 2025	Full proposal due
January 2026	Proposal review
February 2026	Funding decisions announced
May 2026	Funding available
December 3, 2026	Progress report due
January - November 2027	Interview for blog post
December 2, 2027	Final report due

Submit deliverables to Chris Sater at csater@wsu.edu.

How Proposals Are Evaluated

Criteria	Score
Innovation/Scientific Contribution	35%
Methods & Procedures	25%
Impact Potential	20%
Community Impact	20%
Program Fit	Pass/Fail

Cost appropriateness is negotiated after review.

Before You Apply

Contact CSANR Director Chad Kruger at 509-335-4605 or cekruger@wsu.edu to discuss your concept before submitting. This conversation may significantly improve your project's competitiveness.

Research past awards by browsing the [CSANR Grants Database](#) to see examples of funded projects, outcomes, and publications.

Review Process

Each proposal receives:

- Review by two CSANR Advisory Committee members for relevance and impact
- Detailed review by one or more subject matter expert(s) for technical merit
- Evaluation by CSANR Leadership Team grant review panel

PIs are generally notified of funding decisions in February 2026.

Questions?

Program relevance & allowable expenses:

Chad Kruger, CSANR Director
cekruger@wsu.edu, 509-335-4605

Application process & logistics:

Chris Sater
csater@wsu.edu