



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 2111

1. Project Title IFAS Fertilizer Rate Research

2. Senate Sponsor Jim Boyd

3. Date of Request 03/25/2021

## 4. Project/Program Description

UF/IFAS will be conducting research to assess, update and validate recommended fertilizer application rates and practices for the Florida agriculture industry. This research will provide modernized, science-based fertilizer application rates ensuring farmers can protect the environment while growing food for the nation. UF/IFAS will develop an artificial intelligence (AI) database on nutrient recommendations to update recommendations for current and future crops.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

State Agency contacted? No

## 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	3,363,688
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,363,688</b>

## 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,363,688	96%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	147,000	4%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022</b>	<b>3,510,688</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 2,965,288

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

None

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

University of Florida received federal stimulus funds. Fund spent supporting students financial needs & other COVID related expenses such as PPE. UF/IFAS received funding to reimburse purchase of 4 quarantine quarters for off-campus graduate students at \$78,395.

#### 11. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits	Four Support Teams in Four Regions made up of a Res Ast Scientist, 2 BioScientist II, 2 OPS/region, 2 student envoys, X 4 regions.  One Economics Post-doctoral Associate AI Post-doctoral Associate	1,384,688
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Soil samples, soil analysis, sequential analyses, tissue analyses, sample shipping, field supplies, Lab supplies, Field equipment, Travel, Ufarm fees,	1,979,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>3,363,688</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

##### a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

Due to requirements of recently passed legislation, there is a pressing need to assess, update and validate, recommended fertilizer application rates and application practices for the agriculture industry, while balancing the needs of producers and environmental impacts.

##### b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Initiation of a network of data sources evaluating crop nutrient needs, including traditional academic research plots, on-farm trials utilizing cooperative growers willing to share their data, and compilation of all available public data sources (e.g., FDACS, WMDs, NRCS) regarding nutrient applications (including data from previous research, state and federal agency sources, and grower data). Using Artificial Intelligence (AI), these data sources will be used to build a database that can be continually updated and utilized to provide optimized crop nutrient recommendations and develop recommendations for new crops.

##### c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

More efficient food production and reduced impact to water quality and the environment.

##### d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Initially, farmers in the areas located in and around Gadsden, Live Oak, Hastings, Plant City and Immokalee will benefit from this research. Eventually, the project will expand their findings to benefit agriculture around the state.

##### e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will



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be measured?

More accurate nutrient rates will enable agriculture producers to become more efficient in fertilizer use reducing impacts to the state's environment and water quality. The success will be measured by the reduced nutrient runoff from agriculture operations.

**f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?**

Standard penalties.

**13. The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.**

None



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#### 14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 15. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

#### c. Organization Type

- ☐ For Profit Entity
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- ☐ Local Entity
- ☒ University or College
- ☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

#### 16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number