



## Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) Campus Grants – 2026–2027

### ♦ Quick Facts

|  <b>Deadline</b> |  <b>Begin Routing by</b> |  <b>Maximum Request</b> |  <b>Project Period</b> |  <b>Apply Online</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dec 8, 2025 @ 11:59 PM                                                                            | Dec 1, 2025                                                                                               | Up to \$150,000                                                                                          | 7/1/2026 – 6/30/2029                                                                                      | InfoReady via <a href="#">Engagement Hub</a>                                                            |

### ♦ Purpose

ARI supports applied research in agriculture, including forestry and aquaculture. Projects must show industry collaboration and benefit California's agriculture, food systems, and natural resources. An estimated \$235,000 will be available for competitive awards in fall 2026, subject to budget changes. Applicants may request up to \$150,000. Please see the ARI RFP for a complete list of research priorities.

### ♦ Eligibility & Match Requirements

- Eligible applicants: Tenured/tenure-track faculty and research associates
- 100% match required (at least 25% must be cash match)
- Cash match may be leveraged from external (non-CSU) grants not already committed as match elsewhere
- ARI proposals may build on existing grants (e.g., NSF, USDA), but match funds must align with the project and not duplicate other commitments

### ♦ Routing Guidelines & Timeline

- Routing deadline: December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Project period: Up to 3 years (7/1/26 – 6/30/29)
- Routing package includes:
  - Final budget (reviewed by Pre-Award Specialist)
  - Match commitment letters
  - Narrative
  - Routing form
  - Commitment letters, Scope of work, and budgets from subawardees (if applicable)

### ♦ Submission Process & Requirements

- Submit proposals through InfoReady via [Engagement Hub](#) by December 8<sup>th</sup>
- Support letters are required from anyone essential to project success—e.g., landowners granting access or unpaid collaborators confirming their role. *These letters must be submitted with the application.*

- Reference letters are **required** from a qualified field expert (e.g., plant physiologist, silviculturist) who can assess the project's scientific merit and methods. Letters should offer an informed evaluation of the scientific approach and methodology and typically come from colleagues familiar with the field. *Project collaborators may not write reference letters.* Due December 15.
- Additional uploads include:

- Cash Match Verification form
- In-Kind Match Verification form
- ARI budget spreadsheet
- Current & Pending Support
- Data Sharing & Use of Preexisting Intellectual Property form
- Letters of commitment
- Match & ARI specific objectives
- Timeline of Activities

- Incomplete applications will not be forwarded to reviewers

#### ◆ Post-Award Guidelines & Timeline

- Final report due within 90 days of project completion. Late reports disqualify future eligibility.
- Extensions require interim reports showing progress to date
- Awardees may be asked to present findings at a campus forum

#### ◆ Review Criteria (Max 100 Points)

| Category                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Points |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>A. Problem/Issue Clarity &amp; Significance:</b> <i>Assess whether the PI clearly and convincingly defines a solvable problem, demonstrates its significance, and shows a thorough understanding of related work, including how others have addressed the issue</i>                                                                                                                                                          | 20     |
| <b>B. Methodology, Timeline, and Matching Funds:</b> <i>Evaluate whether the methodology is sound, limitations and contingencies are addressed, and data collection and analysis are well defined. Assess if objectives, milestones, and timeline are realistic and aligned with the proposed work. If matching funds are required, confirm their relevance and that objectives do not overlap—except for direct cost-share</i> | 25     |
| <b>C. Dissemination Plan for CA Industry:</b> <i>Assess whether the dissemination plan is well developed and adequately addresses the concerns of California farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness—as required for all ARI-funded projects</i>                                                                                                                                                                                    | 10     |
| <b>D. Economic Impact on CA Agriculture &amp; Consumers:</b> <i>Evaluate the project's value to California agriculture, agribusiness, food systems, natural resources, and consumers. Assess whether the issue is a recognized industry priority and whether adequate industry support is provided or a reasonable justification is provided for why it cannot</i>                                                              | 15     |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <p><b>E. Deliverables &amp; Outcome Assessment:</b> <i>evaluate whether the proposed methods for assessing outcomes are sufficient to determine if project objectives have been met. Assess whether deliverables are realistic and whether the proposal addresses expected impacts on <u>agriculture, natural resources, consumers, and science</u></i></p> | 5  |
| <p><b>F. PI Qualifications &amp; Staffing (Student Involvement Encouraged):</b> <i>Assess whether the PI and key personnel have the qualifications to address the proposed problem and whether staffing levels are appropriate. Confirm that roles are clearly defined and that student involvement—strongly encouraged—is explicitly outlined</i></p>      | 10 |
| <p><b>G. Budget Justification &amp; Efficiency:</b> <i>Evaluate whether the requested resources are appropriate and efficiently aligned with the proposed work, and whether a clear justification links costs to project activities</i></p>                                                                                                                 | 15 |

### ◆ **Contacts & Assistance**

✉ Questions regarding existing ARI grants: Anthony Johnson – [aj27@humboldt.edu](mailto:aj27@humboldt.edu)

✉ Proposal Preparation: Pre-Award Specialists: Pia Gabriel [pg12@humboldt.edu](mailto:pg12@humboldt.edu), Kaz Wegmuller–[jkw77@humboldt.edu](mailto:jkw77@humboldt.edu), Jocelyne Takatsuno–[jt366@humboldt.edu](mailto:jt366@humboldt.edu)

For issues with the InfoReady submission site, contact:

✉ Cara Peters - [cap924@humboldt.edu](mailto:cap924@humboldt.edu)

✉ Kumi Nakadate - [jkn24@humboldt.edu](mailto:jkn24@humboldt.edu)

### ◆ **Common Proposal Pitfalls**

#### **1. Incomplete or Disorganized Submissions**

- Missing required sections or components (e.g., subaward documentation, support letters, reference letters)
- Misalignment between the narrative and budget (e.g., travel described in scope but not budgeted) • Support letters missing for critical access (e.g., no landowner letter for site-based work)

#### **2. Lack of Clarity in Research Design**

- Research objective is vague or not explicitly stated
- Jargon-heavy or overly technical language; proposal is not accessible to a generalist reviewer • Project rationale is incomplete (e.g., site selection or exclusions not explained) • Unclear what's new or innovative; contribution to the field is not well articulated

#### **3. Weak Industry and Economic Impact Connections**

- Industry relevance is unclear or generic
- No specific industry partner or connection mentioned
- Economic impact beyond the immediate partnership is vague; proposals that quantify broader benefits are stronger

#### **4. Team and Collaboration Gaps**

- Roles and expertise of team members are not clearly described
- Benefit to collaborators is not well articulated
- Nature and structure of collaborations are ambiguous

#### **5. Budget and Scope Misalignment**

- Budget does not reflect narrative (e.g., activities mentioned but not budgeted) •  
Student compensation is too low
- Scope of work appears unrealistic for the timeframe or budget
- Overlap between proposed work and committed match activities is unclear



Cal Poly Humboldt  
Office of Research  
& Sponsored Programs

# Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) Grant



**DEADLINE:**

DEC. 8,  
2025



**AMOUNT:**

UP TO  
\$150,000



**LINK:**

[FIND LINK TO  
APPLY ON  
ENGAGEMENT  
HUB](#)

Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) funds are available to all tenured, tenure-track faculty, or research associates engaging in agricultural research. ARI projects must have a strong link to agriculture, including forestry and aquaculture. Projects must be focused on applied research with strong industry collaboration and a goal to positively impact California agriculture, natural resources and food systems.

The match requirement is 100% of the requested amount with at least 25% of this from cash and the remainder in-kind. Note that the cash match simply means that you may leverage an existing grant or contract (excluding grants supported from the CSU general fund) with funds not already committed to match associated with your ARI Proposal. As such, ARI proposals may be used to augment the activities associated with an existing grant (e.g., NSF, USDA, etc).

*\*Note - SPF requires that all ARI proposals be Institutionally Routed. The internal deadline to start your Institutional Routing is no later than **December 1, 2025**. Routing packages must include a final budget that has already been reviewed by your Pre-Award Specialist, match commitment letters from any external match providers, a substantial narrative draft, a routing form, and, if applicable, commitment letters and budgets from subawardees.*

*For more information, follow the link on the left to view the full program description in Infoready.*