

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE
Campus Funding Opportunity

ANNOUNCING: Humboldt's Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) Grants for Agricultural Research in Academic Year 2025 - 2026

Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) funds are available to all tenured, tenure-track faculty, or research associates engaging in agricultural research. Preliminary indications are that approximately \$235,000 will be available for competitive allocation in fall 2025; this amount is subject to change depending on the budget. Proposals can request up to \$150,000 max.

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 on any other project. If using another grant as match, the funds must come from a project 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).

Projects should span a period of performance of up to 3 years between 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2028. All recipients of an ARI grant will be expected to submit an appropriate report of the grant activity upon completion, but no later than 90 days after completion. Individuals who are funded but neglect to submit a final report on their activities will be ineligible for future funding. Any individuals wishing to receive an extension of an existing ARI grant must submit an interim report indicating the extent to which the project has been accomplished. Recipients of ARI funding will be asked to discuss their research at an appropriate campus forum. Please see the ARI 2025/2026 RFP for a complete list of research priorities. See also Scoring Criteria attached at the end of this document.

If you have questions regarding existing ARI grants, please contact Anthony Johnson at aj27@humboldt.edu.

The Deadline for submission of campus proposals is **Thursday, November 14, 2024 by 11:59pm**.

PI's will submit via InfoReady, which can be accessed through [Humboldt Engagement Hub](#).

** Please note* - SPF requires that all ARI proposals be Institutionally Routed. The internal deadline to start your Institutional Routing is no later than **November 7, 2024**. 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 submission, at least one reference letter is also required, however reference letters will be accepted until November 21st to give referees ample time to read your application.

Please note your application will not be accepted and forwarded for review if it does not include all relevant letters. See more details on each below. Please reach out to your Pre-Award Specialist asap to coordinate both the routing and submission via InfoReady if you are unfamiliar with the platform.

Reference letters: must be written by an expert in the field of study of the respective proposal (e.g. if the proposal is about diseases in oak trees, then the person writing the letter should be a plant physiologist, or a silviculturist, or a disease ecologist, or similar), who can comment on the scientific merit and methodological soundness of the proposed project. The proposed scientific approach and methodology are reviewed and actively evaluated within the letter. Reference letters are usually written by a colleague who understands the field of study well, and might collaborate on other projects. Collaborators on the proposed ARI project are not eligible to write a reference letter. Reference letters will be accepted until November 21st.

Support letters from industry: support letters should be included from anyone whose support is necessary for the success of the project. For example, if your project will take place on private land, you'll want to include a letter from the landowner indicating support for the project and access to the land. If your project includes unpaid collaborators, you will want to include letters of support indicating the support they are willing to provide to the project. Support letters are due with your application.

For assistance with completing the application, or if you have any questions, please contact one of our Pre-Award Specialists: Pia Gabriel at pg12@humboldt.edu, Kaz Wegmuller at jkw77@humboldt.edu, or Jocelyne Takatsuno at jt366@humboldt.edu.

**Note* - Principal Investigators interested in applying to the ARI System funding opportunity should contact their Pre-Award Specialist as the deadlines to apply vary.

Scoring Matrix for ARI Proposals

Category	Points Available
<p>A. Problem/Issue to be Addressed: <i>Determine whether the problem is addressed clearly and presented convincingly. The Principal Investigator should demonstrate a clear understanding of the significance of the problem, which should be solvable. Determine whether other researchers are addressing this problem, and whether the Principal Investigator demonstrated a thorough understanding of related work that has been reported by others.</i></p>	20
<p>B. Statement of Methodology: <i>Determine whether the proposed methodology is sound and whether there are any significant limitations associated with the proposal design. Determine if pitfalls and possible solutions were identified. Determine whether the proposal indicates data will be collected and analyzed, whether the major objectives and milestones of the proposal have been identified, and whether they are appropriate. Evaluate whether the timeline of proposed activities is realistic and appropriate to the work proposed, and whether the objectives can be achieved using the approach identified. If matching funds were required, has the relevance of those funds been addressed, including non-overlap of objectives except in the case of direct cost-share?</i></p>	25
<p>C. Dissemination Plan: <i>Determine whether the information dissemination activities proposed are adequate, that they primarily address California farmers', ranchers', and/or agribusiness concerns (a requirement for all ARI funded proposals), and that they are well thought out.</i></p>	10
<p>D. Evidence of Economic Impact to the California Industry and Consumer: <i>Evaluate the value of the work proposed relative to California agriculture, agribusiness, food and natural resources and consumers. Determine whether the agricultural industry's recognition of this problem as being high priority was economically accurate. Establish that industry has provided adequate support for this project or justified why it cannot.</i></p>	15
<p>E. Deliverables and Impact: <i>Evaluate whether the methods proposed to assess the final project outcomes will determine whether or not objectives stated in the original proposal have been achieved. Evaluate if the deliverables appear reasonable and achievable. Evaluate if they have addressed the impact of the proposed research to the agriculture and natural resource industry, the consumer, and science, as appropriate.</i></p>	5
<p>F. Staff Needs/Researcher Qualifications and Collaboration: <i>Determine whether the proposal clearly describes the qualifications of the Project Director and other key personnel to solve the identified proposal problem (training, education, demonstrated awareness of the issue) and whether the level of staffing is appropriate. Determine whether the roles and activities of all the key personnel have been clearly defined. Student involvement is strongly encouraged and their roles in the project should be clearly defined.</i></p>	10
<p>G. Budget Appropriateness: <i>Evaluate whether the resources requested are appropriate to the work proposed and whether there are more efficient ways to conduct the project. Determine whether there is a clear relationship between the resources requested and the work proposed.</i></p>	15
Maximum Points Awarded =	100