



**April 30, 2021**

**Dear Small Grain Researchers,**

The Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association is now accepting **research proposals for the 2021-2022 growing season**. Projects should be geared to research of small grain crops (wheat, barley, oats, rice, rye, triticale) and each proposal should be again this year have a focus on sustainability. As general guidance we are looking for projects to address the three pillars of sustainability as defined by USDA: economic, environmental and social. We are also looking to the USDA definition of Sustainable Agriculture that was contained in the 1990 "Farm Bill" [Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990). Under that law, "the term sustainable agriculture means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term:

- satisfy human food and fiber needs;
- enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends;
- make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls;
- sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and
- enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole."

In recent discussions by the board these areas of focus were identified:

- Soil Health research – water holding capacity, organic matter improvements in the face of warming climates

- Soil microbial ecosystem research – investigate soil structure/health improvements from various crops and cover crops
- Crop Nutrition – micronutrients, zinc, sulphur, tissue sampling – agronomic application, in furrow nutrition, cost of crop nutrition – diminishing returns
- Disease and insects – new products, seed treatments
- Weeds – herbicides use/costs, and herbicide resistance
- Market development and new uses- small grain crops conventionally grown in our region; additionally: rye, cover crop rye
- Wheat breeding and improvement
- Wheat research to address milling strength
- Malting Barley research
- Flavor – wheat and rye with a focus on end user needs – genetics, management, variety preference
- Rye production as a cover crop and for grain
- Documentable measurements for sustainability – literature review or other method- focus of discussion was consumer engagement and end user needs.

***To apply for funding, submit a one-page executive summary of the proposed research including a general estimate of project cost by **July 2, 2021**.***

Once summaries are collected, they will be subject to a ranking process by the board of directors. Researchers whose summaries meet the desired criteria will then be invited to complete the Research Project Proposal Form & Budget (found at this website: <http://www.kysmallgrains.org/research-funding-applications.html>), and provide a more detailed proposal.

You are welcome to forward this email to others who may be interested.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [laura@kysmallgrains.org](mailto:laura@kysmallgrains.org) or 502-333-2983.

Thank you,

*Laura*

Laura M. Knoth  
Executive Director