

# **Federal, State and Commodity Group Competitive Grants**

**Wendy Shoffner  
Shoffner Farm Research, Inc.**

# Grants

**“Everybody has their butts (butts)?”**

Monk

# Grants

## ■ Local sources

- State and local economic development councils
- These development councils sponsor meetings where they bring together science, technology, business consultants and money.

# Grants

## Research and crop consulting for a biofuel company

- Research – identifying and experimenting with alternative oil crops such as castor, okra, canola, sunflower, safflower
- Consulting – Working with local economic development council to locate crusher in community

# Grants

## Research and crop consulting for a biofuel company

- Funded in part by the local economic development council
- Funded in part by a TTAG, Technology Transfer Assistance Grant. Program is operated by the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority and is funded through federal grants and private foundation contributions.

# Grants

- **Local grant opportunities**

- Jo Anne Smith: Has written a grant for her local Soil & Water Conservation District for a Section 319 Clean Water Act project. Information was obtained from her Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) District.

“What was eye opening was the amount of money available for those willing to pursue the paperwork process towards being awarded a grant.”

# Grants

## ■ Other grant opportunities

Frank Sances:

Suggests becoming a participant in the region's agricultural research community. "An example of this is with our organic research on several crops such as strawberries, cole crops and lettuce."

Has conducted his own research projects to develop information that was non proprietary and could be published in scientific journals.

Conducts educational seminars that offer continuing education credits to pest control advisors and growers and gives presentations at professional meetings.

"All of these suggestions are expensive and the return is not always forthcoming or even apparent when it does."

# Grants

- **Local grant opportunities – commodity groups**

Jo Anne Smith:

Suggested investigating funding through the commodity groups, for example, minor crop groups looking for research assistance with pest problems. There can be opportunities where the university either lacks funding or interest.

# Grants

- **Other grant opportunities – commodity groups**

Frank Sances:

Commodity groups: grower reviewed programs with university specialists as advisors only.

“Depending on the commodity, these grants range from \$10K-\$50K annually, are not overly micromanaged, and are funded directly and on time to the contractor.”

Has worked with the California Lettuce Research Board, The California Strawberry Commission, and the California Fresh Market Tomato Research Board.

“These are not moneymakers but do give exposure of your group to the industry.”

# Grants

## ■ Other grant opportunities

Charlie Mellinger:

SARE - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

Purpose is to increase knowledge about - and help farmers and ranchers adopt - practices that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good to communities.

Provides competitive grants to researchers, agricultural educators, farmers and ranchers, and students.

# Grants

## ■ Other grant opportunities - Foundations

Frank Sances:

Has received some non profit agricultural foundation grants, including those for international projects.

CDs available with information on all foundations that fund environmental and agricultural field projects including contact persons.

# Grants

- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
  - Federal agencies: USDA, Dept of Energy, EPA, and the National Science Foundation (NSF).
  - At USDA, SBIR is administered by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).
- Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
  - Federal agencies: Dept of Energy and NSF

# Grants

- **Structure of the SBIR and STTR Programs.**
  - *Phase I.* To establish the technical merit and feasibility and potential for commercialization of the proposed research efforts and to determine the quality of performance of the small business prior to providing further Federal support in Phase II. Support under Phase I normally may not exceed \$100,000 for a period normally not to exceed six months for SBIR and one year for STTR.
  - *Phase II.* To continue the research efforts initiated in Phase I. Support normally may not exceed \$750,000 for a period normally not to exceed two years.

# Grants

- **SBIR and STTR differ in two major ways**
  - SBIR - Principal Investigator must be employed with a small business. Participation by full time university faculty or government scientists is strongly encouraged. They can serve as consultants or subcontractors (limited to no more than 1/3 of the Phase I award or 1/2 of the Phase II award).
  - STTR - Employment of the PI is not stipulated.

# Grants

- **SBIR and STTR differ in two major ways**
  - STTR - Requires research partners at universities and other non-profit research institutions to have a formal collaborative relationship with the small business. At least 40 percent of the research project is to be conducted by the small business and at least 30 percent by research institution.

# Grants

## **Contract researchers can:**

- Fulfill the stakeholder (PI) requirement in many of the USDA grant programs
- Work with university researchers on the grant writing process as well as the research
- Provide expertise gained from on the ground experience with growers

Work with university researchers increases the chance of obtaining a grant

# Grants

## Research and crop consulting for a biotech company

- Transformed corn to produce an enzyme for cellulosic ethanol production
- Multi year beginning with the hybrid crossing and working into thousands of acres of production
- Funded by an STTR grant from the Federal Dept. of Energy

# Grants

## Plant-based pharmaceuticals

- Joint project with state university medical researchers
- Cowpea transformed to produce a protein used in vaccine form to treat ovarian cancer
- STTR grants written by the university in which we are the stakeholder

# Grants

## ■ Other grant opportunities

Frank Sances: Has written an SBIR grant.

- Reiterated the need for the association with the university or other non-profit institution unless you have a track record of performance on government grants.
- Mentioned the need for a “proof of concept” that is clear and well established.
- Recommended care in commercializing research and still remaining independent.
- Program benefits are the size of grants available and sufficient time for development.

# Grants

## ■ Other grant opportunities

Jim Steffel:

Suggests contacting Kathy Kimble-Day

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov>

Crops at Risk (CAR) - to create or enhance IPM practices for individual food or fiber crops

Risk Avoidance and Mitigation (RAMP) - to enhance the development and implementation of innovative IPM strategies for production systems.

Both require university collaboration

# Grants

## ■ Other grant opportunities

Charlie Mellinger:

- PMAP - Pest Management Alternatives Program provides support for the development and implementation of integrated pest management practices, tactics and systems for specific pest problems.
- CIG - Conservation Innovation Grants through the NRCS. Funding available to non-government employees on state and federal levels. There are 22 states listed on the website. Arkansas is not currently on the list.  
Website: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/>

# Grants

## ■ Other grant opportunities

Charlie Mellinger:

- National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants Program through CSREES

Small Businesses and individuals are eligible.

Supports high priority fundamental and mission-linked research of importance in the biological, environmental, physical, and social sciences relevant to agriculture, food, and the environment

- Regional IPM grants

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