



Corn Marketing Program of Michigan

Request for Proposals

Released December 2, 2025

The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan (CMPM) is announcing the call for research proposals for 2026. The CMPM has a strategic plan outlining the focus for increasing economic viability of corn production in Michigan through innovative research and market development.

The purpose of CMPM is to enhance the economic position of Michigan corn growers by providing for the growth and expansion of the corn industry in Michigan through foreign and domestic market development, efficient production, promotion, and research that will stimulate the demand for corn.

A one cent check-off is collected for every bushel of corn that is marketed in Michigan and that check-off goes to CMPM. The board of directors, made up of farmers from across the state, review and determine funding priorities.

STRATEGIC PLAN AREAS OF INTEREST and PROPOSAL FOCUS

The corn growers of Michigan are interested in funding research and demonstration initiatives that reflect the interests of the corn industry and will return significant value to corn farmers who fund those efforts. Regardless of whether projects reflect long-term research or near-term demonstration projects, scientific methods and appropriate data management should be planned and employed for the best results.

Proposals are sought to answer one or more of the following targeted research questions. Note: CMPM is only accepting proposals that address the specific, targeted questions in bold. This is not an open-ended RFP.

- ❖ Priority: Enhance the value of the Michigan corn industry through new and expanded corn markets and value-added uses.
 - **How does tillage intensity impact the carbon intensity score of corn production?**
- ❖ Priority: Set a higher standard for Michigan grain quality
 - **What are the best practices for mycotoxin management in corn production?**
- ❖ Priority: Increase Michigan corn utilization
 - **What is the economic impact of corn production and corn products in Michigan?**
 - **What makes Michigan corn, ethanol, and its byproducts stand out from the rest?**
 - **What role can industrial biotechnology play in increasing MI corn utilization?**

Researchers should ensure their project is a new idea that has not been previously studied at another university or research organization and/or describe why additional research is necessary in Michigan.

Additionally, if previous work on the project has been funded by other sources, a clear distinction needs to be shown between previously funded work and that proposed to the CMPM. If research is currently being funded by other sources, or is being sought by other sources, these sources must be disclosed.

Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis with the following deadlines:

Spring (all production agriculture/field-based research must be submitted in Spring)

Proposal Deadline: February 6, 2026

Committee Meeting: March 11, 2026*

Board Meeting: March 18, 2026

Summer

Proposal Deadline: May 29, 2026

Committee Meeting: June 17, 2026*

Board Meeting: June 23, 2026

Fall

Proposal Deadline: August 21, 2026

Committee Meeting: September 9, 2026*

Board Meeting: September 15, 2026*

Winter

Proposal Deadline: November 20, 2026

Committee Meeting: December 9, 2026*

Board Meeting: December 16, 2026*

*dates subject to change

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

The proposal should include the following information, in the order listed below, utilizing no more than **five** pages, including the cover page and budget form (see separate attachments), excluding support letters and references cited, using 12-point font. Proposals of more than five pages may not be considered.

Please label all pages of the proposal submitted to CMPM with your name, project title, date, and page number in the footer of the document. Be sure to include the following:

- **Cover Page** (attached) – The included form should be completed and saved as the front page of your proposal.
- **Abstract** – A stand-alone summary of the project highlighting objectives, methods, outcomes, and collaborators.
- **Problem Statement** – Which CMPM priority area does this proposal fall under and what targeted question is the proposal answering? What is the problem and opportunity and why is it important to the future of Michigan's corn farmers? How does it relate to the CMPM goals and mission? How does this fill gaps in current research?
- **Objectives** – Succinctly state what the goals and objectives are for the project.
- **Methods and Procedures** – How, specifically, will the hypotheses be tested?
- **Outcomes** – Indicate what this project will accomplish, how you will gauge success, and what it will mean to a Michigan corn farmer: agronomically, economically, socially, and/or environmentally.
- **Impact on the Michigan corn industry** – How does this impact CMPM's goals and mission? Is there potential to expand markets?
- **Timeline** – List milestones of the project.
- **Budget and Narrative** (attached) – Complete the attached budget sheet and include at the end of the proposal.
- **Team members** – List each pertinent team member, their contribution to the project, and their qualifications to achieve their role. Please also list any collaborators and their roles and responsibilities.
- **Letters of support** – Optional; two letters maximum. Not included in page limit.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals submitted by Michigan State University or MSU Extension personnel:

Proposals must be sent and fully routed through the MSU KC system by 5 p.m. on the quarterly due date (see above)

If you have questions regarding the submission process, contact:

Sara Haller, Research Project Administrator, MSU AgBioResearch
446 W. Circle Dr, Room 109, Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: 517-353-1328, bolessar@msu.edu
(Sara Haller will forward all MSU projects to the MI Corn Office)

Non-Michigan State University & MSU Extension proposals:

All proposals are due by 5 p.m. on the quarterly due date (see above). Please submit a PDF document via email to Kristin Poley at kpoley@micorn.org. You will receive an email notification that your proposal has been received. If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours, it is your responsibility to follow up by calling Kristin Poley at 517-668-2676.

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

All proposals must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the appropriate quarterly deadline (see above). A committee of CMPM farmer board members will convene prior to the CMPM board meeting for each quarter to review any proposals that have been received by that quarter's deadline. Proposals will be reviewed following the evaluation criteria outlined below. The committee will take a funding recommendation to the full board at the next quarterly board meeting for a full-board vote. Notices of funding decisions will be made no more than 10 days post each quarterly board meeting (see above for dates).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to judge the merit of the proposals.

	Maximum points
Relationship to Michigan Corn mission and priorities.....	20
Scientific soundness, novelty & appropriateness of methodology.....	20
Potential impact on corn producers and the Michigan corn industry.....	20
Mechanism to deliver information to Michigan corn farmers and users.....	10
Potential to leverage other funds.....	10
Extent of partnering with others.....	20
Total.....	100

CONDITIONS OF FUNDING ACCEPTANCE

- The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan will fund all approved projects in the following manner:
 - 25% of the total annual funding will be provided upon notification of project approval and signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Intellectual Property Agreement (if applicable to the project).
 - 50% of the total annual funding will be released upon submission and acceptance of a midterm report to the Board by **the deadline outlined in each project's MOU**. Midterm reports can be short; instructions for midterm reports will be provided prior to the deadline.
 - The final 25% of the allocated annual funds will be released after a final budget breakdown is submitted, and a satisfactory final written report is submitted including graphs or pictures, and a project synopsis. **The final report deadline will be outlined in each project's MOU**. Specific instructions for the format and content of the final report will be sent after CMPM receives the midterm report. **NOTE:** a final research presentation to the board of directors may be requested.
- A non-proprietary report/synopsis will be placed on the Michigan Corn website and will be used to communicate with Michigan corn farmers and the public.
- Failure to submit timely and quality progress reports or insufficient progress will result in premature termination of project, cessation of funding, and a request for return of unspent funds.

- Michigan Corn expects team leaders and/or their representatives to reasonably participate in CMPM public events and radio programs that highlight research activities when requested. Failure to participate may result in the premature termination of the project.
- Multi-year projects are funded one year at a time and are subject to annual evaluations. Funding for additional years is not guaranteed but please include your intentions when appropriate for your project.
- The Corn Marketing Program of Michigan is a farmer-funded organization. One cent for every bushel of corn grown in Michigan and sold is sent to the organization. It is imperative that the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan be recognized as a funding source whenever possible. Public presentations of research should note that funding was obtained from the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Poley, kpoley@micorn.org or 517-668-2676.