



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Rural Partnership Institute

Auburn University Rural Partnership Institute (AURPI): Call for Collaborative Research Projects

Overview

[The Auburn University Rural Partnership Institute \(AURPI\)](https://eng.auburn.edu/besen/research/aurpi/) is soliciting proposals from faculty who are collaborating with industry and/or community organizations to develop and implement solutions that enhance the efficiency, sustainability, and economic viability of Alabama's poultry and forestry industries with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of rural Alabamians. This request for proposal is intended for faculty to collaborate with industry or community organizations in support of the goals of AURPI's project. If you would like to know more information about AURPI it can be found at:

<https://eng.auburn.edu/besen/research/aurpi/>

Topics could include but are not limited to:

1. Develop technology solutions and market intelligence that will help producers and processors of poultry and forest products improve their competitiveness and sustainability.
2. Promote technologies that will advance the poultry and forest products industries.
3. Predict and protect against cyber-physical vulnerabilities in poultry and forest products sectors
4. Find opportunities to better manage water and wastewater; better manage and upcycle the waste streams emanating from poultry and forest product processing facilities for beneficial use.
5. Other topics of investigation into challenges facing rural Alabama, including exploratory social and health science research.

Projects are expected to be a 1-2 year effort, beginning in the Fall 2026. AURPI will award 4-5 projects. Funding level for each proposed project can be up to \$100,000 each. This is an internally funded program and no subaward is allowed on this project. Investigators are encouraged to include graduate and undergraduate students in the proposal and research. ***Note that current PI/co-PI on AURPI internal funding program will not be considered for this funding opportunity.*** Funded projects are required to acknowledge USDA-NIFA in all scholarly outputs (i.e. presentations, publications, etc.). **Proposals are due by June 15th, 2026.**

Proposal Guidelines

Proposal should include the following sections with maximum 5 pages for sections "A to E" below.

- a) Abstract (250 words or less)
- b) Background of the issue that is being addressed
- c) Tasks



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- d) Project Timeline
- e) Expected impact (deliverables)
- f) Qualifications (2-page CV or resume of all team participants)
- g) Itemized Budget, including budget justification
 - No indirect costs will be charged.
 - AU OVPR budget template is encouraged.
 - Tuition dollars for graduate students should be included in the budget
- h) Letter of collaboration with industry or/and community
- i) References

Proposal Formatting:

- Margin: 1 inch at the top, bottom, left and right
- Font size: 12 point
- Spacing: single or double spaced
- Pages should be numbered and 8.5 x 11 inch sized

Proposals should be submitted by email to aurpi@auburn.edu

Selection

Projects will be reviewed and awarded to those that align with the mission of [AURPI](#). Projects will be expected to start in the Fall of 2026.

Contact

For questions or further information, please contact:

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For more information about AURPI and its initiatives, please visit

<https://eng.auburn.edu/bsen/research/aurpi/>