

## Detailed Criteria and Considerations for the Review of GPCAH Pilot / Feasibility Project Proposals

### General NIH Guidelines for Scoring:

- Consider rationale for and importance of proposal, clarity of hypothesis and specific aims, validity of study design, as well as proposed data analysis.
- Encourage new and creative research, education and/or prevention approaches.
- Provide support for new investigators to establish new lines of inquiry and allow exploration of new directions.
- Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?
- Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements?
- Is there evidence of institutional support?

### 1. Scientific Relevance and Relevance to Mission, Goals and Objectives:

- Does the study address an important problem?
- If the aims of the application are achieved, how will the scientific knowledge be advanced?
- What will be the effect of this work on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
- Agricultural research topics identified as priorities in PAR-06-057:
  - o Projects to reduce the rate of unintentional fatalities
  - o Projects to reduce the number of unintentional injuries
  - o Projects to reduce the number of unintentional acute occupational pesticide poisonings
  - o Projects to reduce pesticide illnesses
  - o Developments of new pesticide biomarkers that are inexpensive, reliable, and readily available to health care professionals.
  - o Approaches for increasing the proportion of farm machinery with power take off (PTO) shields in place used on farms in the US.
  - o Projects to reduce the incidence of respiratory disease.
  - o Approaches for increasing the proportion of farm operators using fall protection in their farm buildings (e.g., barns, silos, grain bins)
  - o Approaches for increasing the proportion of livestock operators who use appropriate animal handling facilities.
  - o Intervention/prevention projects to increase the knowledge of effective occupational safety and health interventions for agricultural workers.
  - o Interventions for increasing the use of hearing protective devices and other strategies for reduction of noise exposure
  - o Projects to reduce machine related fatalities through intervention/prevention approaches
  - o Development of better methodologies for exposure and morbidity surveillance in agriculture
  - o Improved engineering controls for reducing exposure to bioaerosols in animal confinement facilities.
  - o Intervention projects to reduce adverse safety and health events in migrant/seasonal farm workers.
  - o Surveillance and intervention/prevention strategies for reducing helicopter logging injuries
- NIOSH Agricultural Centers and Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH)
  - o Conduct research studies related to the prevention of occupational disease and injury.
  - o Develop, implement and evaluate education projects for promotion of health and safety for agricultural workers.
  - o Develop, implement and evaluate model programs for the prevention of illness and injury in agriculture.
  - o Provide technical assistance and consult in research methods training and education for health professionals, community organizations, and c
  - o Develop linkages and communications with other governmental and non-governmental bodies involved in agricultural health and safety.
- GPCAH Mission
  - o Serving the Midwest, the GPCAH is dedicated to finding ways to protect and promote the health and safety of farmers, farm workers, their farm and their neighbors.
- GPCAH Feasibility/Pilot Project Program Objectives:
  - o Encourage development of new and creative research and research-oriented prevention/intervention translation projects which promise to lead more comprehensive studies addressing health and safety concerns of farm and ranch producers

### 2. Originality, Innovation and Importance to the Region:

- Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods?
- Are the aims original and innovative?
- Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

### 3. Validity and Reliability of Methods:

- Conceptual framework, design, approaches and analyses –are they adequately developed, well integrated and appropriate for aims of this project?
- Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

### 4. Qualifications of Investigators:

- Investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work?
- Proposed work appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and any other researchers?

### 5. Collaboration, Interdisciplinary Nature of the Research; Utilization of GPCAH Personnel and Facilities:

- Special consideration for proposals promoting the collaboration of researchers in the 9-state GPCAH region
- Special consideration for proposals involving researchers affiliated with GPCAH and/or The University of Iowa

### 6. Plans for Dissemination of Results and for the Continuing Reporting of Related Work:

### 7. Potential for Future Extramural Funding: