



## **Request for Proposal**

**PROJECT:** Ecological System Approach to Weed Management

### **RFP CONTACT:**

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**PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Nov. 5, 2018

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The United Soybean Board (USB) requests a proposal to engage a trained consultant or firm to explore the possibilities of an ecological approach to weed management, to be summarized in a white paper. This white paper will help USB and USB's partners understand what research, if any, exists in this space and provide suggested next steps to continue exploring this method of weed control.

### **PURPOSE OF RFP:**

Herbicide resistance is a top concern for U.S. soybean farmers. While there are several options for weed control, including mechanical, cultural, and chemical methods, farmers rely heavily on herbicides to get the job done. But with the increasing use of herbicides comes resistance development, and farmers are finding that herbicides that once worked in their fields are becoming less effective. The dwindling number of effective herbicides combined with very few new herbicide sites of action coming to market mean that farmers will have to turn to more invasive management practices, such as tillage, to control weeds and grow a profitable crop.

What is in the future for weed control? What options exist beyond chemical controls? Scientists are increasingly turning to nature to explore solutions to challenges in crop production. The purpose of this RFP is to draft a white paper that explores the idea of an ecological system approach to weed control and whether the environment has the potential to deal with future weed and other environmental pressures in soybean production.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

The consultant or research firm will collect and analyze data to meet the RFP purpose, resulting in a white paper supporting the following scope of work:



- Provide a synopsis of an ecological system approach to weed management: How does it differ from today's weed control methods? What is the environment's potential to deal with today's production challenges with weed control? How can we look to nature to help U.S. soybean farmers deal with weed pressures and overall growing environmental pressures with agriculture?
- Identify research, if any, that currently exists in this space.
- Provide suggested next steps to continue exploring this potential method of weed control.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** U.S. weed scientists, farmers

**PROJECT TIMELINE:** Our expectation is for this project to span from **Nov. 19, 2018 to Mar. 31, 2019**. We are asking that the project proposal include details about what the proposed timeline and scope would look like.

- Nov. 5, 2018: Proposals submitted for review.
- Nov. 19, 2018: Consultant or research firm selected and notified.
- Nov. 19, 2018 – Mar. 31, 2019: Research conducted on ecological system approach to weed control and white paper drafted.
- Apr. 1, 2018: Final white paper delivered to Osborn Barr.

**DELIVERABLES:**

- White paper outlining what research, if any, currently exists on an ecological system approach to weed control and providing suggested next steps to continue exploring this potential method of weed control.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please submit your proposal via email to Gracie Weinzierl at [gracie.weinzierl@osbornbarr.com](mailto:gracie.weinzierl@osbornbarr.com). Proposals are to be submitted no later than 5 p.m. CST on Nov. 5, 2018. Any questions on the application process or the proposal and its content should be directed to Gracie Weinzierl ([gracie.weinzierl@osbornbarr.com](mailto:gracie.weinzierl@osbornbarr.com)).

