

## **FAQs – The U.S.-Ireland R&D Partnership Program in Agriculture**

### **1. What is the US-Ireland R&D Partnership Program?**

The US-Ireland R&D Partnership is a tri-jurisdictional alliance between the United States, Ireland, and Northern Ireland which was officially launched in 2006. Its aim is to promote collaborative innovative research projects which create value above and beyond individual efforts. To date 40 projects have been successfully funded under the partnership. [Click here for project details.](#)

### **2. What is the US-Ireland R&D Partnership Program in Agriculture?**

This is a program where Principal Investigators (PI) from the United States (U.S.), Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (RoI) collaborate in response to selected programmatic areas in the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational and Applied Science Program.

There must be at least one PI from each jurisdiction, with the US partner bearing responsibility for submission of the joint "tri-partite" proposal to NIFA. If approved for funding by NIFA, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) funds the RoI investigator(s), the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) funds the NI-based investigator(s), and NIFA funds the US investigator(s).

### **3. Do US-Ireland R&D Partnership proposals have a competitive advantage over domestic US only applications under the NIFA call?**

US-Ireland R&D Partnership proposals compete head-to-head with 'non-US-Ireland partnership' proposals submitted to the same call. The competitive advantage comes from the additive nature of the collaboration as well as the leveraged non-exchequer funds. It is important for applicants to spell this out in the introduction to the proposal to ensure that the NIFA appointed reviewers fully understand the intricacies of the process.

### **4. When is the deadline for submission for US-Ireland applicants in the relevant thematic areas listed in the 2018 AFRI Foundation Program RFA?**

There are different deadline dates assigned to the selected thematic areas applicable to the US-Ireland R&D Partnership Call that are referenced in the AFRI RFA. Applications for pre-approval MUST be submitted to DAFM and DAERA by RoI and NI partners respectively *at least 4 weeks* in advance of the stated AFRI deadline. For clarity stated below are the applicable respective dates that must be adhered to by Irish based applicants alongside the stated AFRI deadline.

**Dates for Submitting Applications under the US-Ireland R&D Partnership Agriculture Call 2018**

<b>Thematic Area in AFRI 2018 RFA</b>	<b>DAFM/DAERA Deadline</b>	<b>AFRI Deadline</b>
Pests and Beneficial Species in Agricultural Production Systems	<b>July 17, 2018</b>	<b>August 14, 2018</b>
Animal Nutrition, Growth, and Lactation	<b>June 28, 2018</b>	<b>July 26, 2018</b>
Animal Health and Disease	<b>June 28, 2018</b>	<b>July 26, 2018</b>
Tools and Resources-Animal Breeding, Genetics and Genomics	<b>June 28, 2018</b>	<b>July 26, 2018</b>
Animal Well-Being	<b>June 28, 2018</b>	<b>July 26, 2018</b>
Understanding Antimicrobial Resistance	<b>June 27, 2018</b>	<b>July 25, 2018</b>
Food Manufacturing Technologies	<b>June 27, 2018</b>	<b>July 25, 2018</b>

**5. Why do the RoI and NI applicants have to submit an application to DAFM/DAERA in advance of the AFRI submission deadline?**

An application must be submitted to DAFM and DAERA at least 4 weeks in advance of the NIFA deadline. The purpose of this step is to ensure compliance of the research with the strategic remit of both DAFM and DAERA, to assess the budget requested, and to confirm that the work proposed for each jurisdiction adds significant value so that the overall program of research goes beyond what might be achieved by any one PI working alone supported only by national funding. If DAFM and DAERA agree to support the proposal, a funding commitment letter is provided to the respective RoI and NI applicant for inclusion in the full proposal to be submitted to NIFA. This letter is also sent to the responsible person at NIFA to indicate commitment to this proposal should it be deemed fundable by the NIFA peer-review process. Please ensure that all relevant appendices are included with the draft proposal.

**6. When will the RoI and NI applicants learn the outcome of DAFM and DAERA’s decision prior to the NIFA deadline?**

DAFM and DAERA will endeavour to inform the applicants at the earliest possible date if their proposal is approved / declined but please bear in mind that DAFM and DAERA’s respective internal review process can take about 2 weeks, depending on the number of applications received at any given time. Therefore the draft proposal must be submitted to DAFM and DAERA at least 4 weeks in advance of the stated AFRI deadline.

**7. If the application is successfully approved by DAFM and DAERA – what are the next steps?**

If approved by DAFM and DAERA for submission to NIFA:

- An approval notification email will be sent by DAFM/DAERA to the respective RoI/NI applicant which includes a Funding Commitment Letter stating DAFM/DAERA’s support of the research,

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- DAFM and DAERA will share the Funding Commitment Letter with one another
- The Funding Commitment Letters will be sent by DAFM and DAERA to NIFA

**8. Where can I find information on calls within the AFRI RFA? Which program area priorities are open to the US-Ireland program?**

See link to AFRI's 2018 Foundational and Applied Science Competitive Grants Program Requests for Applications [AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program](#)

The following program area priorities are open to the U.S.-Ireland program:

- Pests and Beneficial Species in Agricultural Production Systems;
- Animal nutrition, growth, and lactation;
- Animal health and disease;
- Tools and Resources-Animal Breeding, Genetics and Genomics;
- Animal Well-Being;
- Understanding Antimicrobial Resistance; and
- Food Manufacturing Technologies

**9. Can anyone apply to this program?**

No, there are a number of eligibility criteria which you must met. Please review the RFA.

**10. Are there any eligibility criteria for a co-PD?**

The eligibility criteria for a co-PD is the same as for the lead PD – i.e. they must be a permanent member of the lead institutions scientific staff.

**11. Do I list Ireland researchers as co-PDs on the Project Summary page of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) application?**

No. Do not list the names of the Irish and Northern Ireland researchers as co-PDs. Please list them as collaborators.

**12. Will US-Ireland R&D partnership applications be reviewed separately to standard U.S. applications for the same call?**

No. They will be evaluated side by side with all other applications.

**13. Will NIFA consider an application that was submitted in a previous US- Ireland Call but was not successful?**

Yes. NIFA encourages resubmissions of previously unsuccessful proposals.

**14. Why are some program area priorities supported and others are not under the U.S.-Ireland Program?**

In previous years, three Program Area Priorities have been supported. This is carefully reviewed each year by NIFA, DAERA & DAFM and in 2018, support has expanded to 7 Program Area Priorities. There are a number of important considerations, including research recently commissioned, the strategic alignment of the Program Area Priority, etc. An important principle of the partnership is that all three jurisdictions must agree on support for any Program Area Priority in order for it to be included in scope for researchers to collaborate on within the US-Ireland R&D Call.

**15. If I am resubmitting a proposal from last year and I expand the work to include a collaboration with Ireland and Northern Ireland, is this still a resubmission?**

Yes. Please indicate in the extra 1 page for "Response to Previous Review" that you have expanded

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the scope of the resubmission.

**16. Do I include Curriculum Vitae for the Irish and Northern Ireland researchers?**

Yes. All individuals engaged in the research project (working on one or more objectives) need CVs included in the proposal so that the panel reviewers can evaluate the overall expertise of the team.

**17. Do I need to include Conflict of Interest lists for the Irish and Northern Ireland researchers?**

Yes. NIFA needs this information so it can adequately enforce its strict policy to avoid any perceived or real conflict of interest when assigning proposals to panel reviewers.

**18. Do I describe “Facilities and Other Resources” and “Equipment” for the Irish and Northern Ireland researchers?**

Yes. The panel reviewers need to be able to evaluate the overall facilities/resources/equipment that available for the team to accomplish the proposed objectives.

**19. Do I include Current and Pending support for the Irish and Northern Ireland researchers?**

No. The funders in Ireland and Northern Ireland are responsible for avoiding potential duplication of research already being conducted by their applicants.

**20. What do I include in the SF 424 “Estimated Project Funding” box?**

- For “Total Federal Funds” indicate the budget requested from NIFA.
- For “Total Non-Federal Funds” indicate the budget (in US dollars) your Irish and Northern Irish colleagues requested from their funding agencies. Do not include detailed budgets for your Irish and Northern Irish colleagues.
- For “Total Federal Funds & Non-Federal Funds” indicate the sum of the numbers above.

**21. I notice that standard research applications for the development of a U.S. Animal Vaccinology Research Coordination Network are also being solicited. Is this area supported by Collaborative Funders in NI/RoI?**

Yes, this area is open to applicants under the DAFM/DAERA Collaborative Fund.  
(Please note that NIFA anticipates a maximum of 1 award in this area).

**22. Can I submit an application to any of the three focus areas under the Animal Well-Being program priority area?**

No. U.S.-Ireland partnership applications will only be accepted for the first two focus areas (see below) and applications will be restricted to those that focus on pigs.

- Behavioral and/or physiological methods to objectively measure animal stress and wellbeing;
- Prevention or alleviation of pain or stress associated with management practices, including stocking density, handling and transportation

**23. Do I have more than 18 pages for the project narrative to describe the research to be done by the US-Ireland-Northern Ireland team?**

No. There are no extra pages. The tri-partite team’s collaborative research must be included in no more than 18 pages.

**24. Is there a specific title to use for these proposals?**

NIFA requests that you please begin your title with “TRI-PARTITE: full title...:”. By doing this, NIFA will be able to quickly identify the tri-partite proposals from among the US only proposals. You should also select Collaborative as the grant type.

**25. My Irish and Northern Ireland colleagues indicate I must include a letter of support from their funding agencies. How should I do this?**

Please add the letters of support as “Other attachments”. Please title the letters “Letter of support IRELAND” or “Letter of support NORTHERN IRELAND”.

**26. Can I submit a “tri-partite proposal” and a “US only proposal” on a different topic to the same program?**

Yes. However, AFRI discourages submission of more than one proposal to the same program from the same lead Project Director. This also applies to project directors who would want to submit two or more “US only proposals” on different topics to the same program.

**27. Will research on horses be considered as “tri-partite proposals” to any of the announced programs that are part of the 2018 partnership?**

No. The animal focus in 2018 is on animals entering the food chain. While NIFA programs support equine research in 2018, “tri-partite proposals” may not work with horses in 2018.

The following FAQs developed by DAERA and DAFM include more detailed information on how Irish-based applicants should proceed –

[DAERA and DAFM Frequently Asked Questions](#)