



American Quarter Horse Foundation

EQUINE RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Dear Researcher,

Since 1960, the American Quarter Horse Foundation has awarded more than \$12 million to improve the health and welfare of the American Quarter Horse. While the commitment to improving health and welfare remains, AQHF has worked diligently over the last eighteen months to strategically evaluate its equine research programming and is introducing modifications to improve the program both for the industry we serve and the investigators we partner with.

For the 2025-2026 funding cycle, the Equine Research Committee will consider all proposals meeting the overarching goal of improving the health, welfare, and utility of the American Quarter Horse, with special attention to the following areas of interest: **Equine Welfare, Genomics, Infectious Diseases, Microbiome of the Horse, & Nutrition**. Additional information on these areas of interest can be found in the complete RFP.

Please note the following new modifications to the AQHF research grant process:

- The proposal review process has transitioned to a *pre-proposal submission format*. Applicants will submit a title page and two-page pre-proposal, after which a full proposal will be requested for advancing projects.
- AQHF will now offer three categories for researcher applicant eligibility: *Young Investigators, Emerging Researchers, and Established Investigators*. Categories were designed to support researcher training and mentorship opportunities to perpetuate the long-term development of professionals who advance the health and well-being of the American Quarter Horse.
- A new *Applied Practices Grant* funding category has been added to support real-world application and relevance of scientific research and how its findings ensure continued best practices and appropriate strategies for horse care and management. These projects will have a maximum grant of \$35,000.
- AQHF will now permit graduate travel stipends and capital expenditures within posted limits.

As the Equine Research Committee Chair, I encourage you to learn more about the AQHF Equine Research Grant Program and consider applying. It is our vision *to foster innovation equine research and education that leverages collaborative resources with exceptional scientists to address fundamental issues facing both the AQHA membership and the broader horse industry*.

Additional information is available at <https://www.aqha.com/equine-research>. Please note the **submission deadline of November 1, 2024**.

Should you have any questions as you prepare your application, please contact me, Dr. Holly Spooner, at holly_spooner@cargill.com or AQHF Programs Manager, Laura Owens at lowens@aqha.org.

We look forward to working with you to create meaningful impact for horses, owners, and the broader equine industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Holly Spooner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Holly Spooner, PhD, PAS

Chair, AQHF Equine Research Committee