



CAES and CVM Trainee Pilot Awards — 2026

Submission guidelines, format and required documents

The **College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES)** and the **College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)** are soliciting applications from trainees (applying as individuals or in small groups [2–3 applicants]) to carry out innovative pilot research studies. Grants will be awarded, with each funding of up to **\$10,000** per project. The trainee(s) will be considered the PIs of the grant.

The program is open to any trainee (postdoc or graduate student) affiliated with CAES and CVM and must include a PI from both colleges.

We are looking for BOLD and INNOVATIVE ideas that encompass both Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture. These may be in the area of the primary project/thesis work of the trainee but must represent a new idea for the trainee or their primary laboratory. Collaborative grants between trainees working in different disciplines or between animal or plant species are encouraged. Each trainee PI is expected to manage their own budget.

Trainee PIs are required to submit short progress reports at the midpoint (one paragraph only) and at the end of the funding period, including a sign-off by their faculty mentors. Additionally, trainees must agree to present their work at a CVM- and CAES-wide research symposium.

DEADLINE:

Proposals are due to **Francisca Burnley** at **fburnley@uga.edu** by 3 p.m. ET on Wednesday, July 1, 2026; no exceptions. Funds will be available to trainee PIs on August 1, 2026.

FORMAT:

Please combine all parts of your application into a single PDF file with the names of the trainee(s) in the file name. Proposals will be judged by a committee of CVM and CAES faculty members; the selection committee excludes mentors of applicants.

Required Documents:

1. An abstract (maximum of 200 words)
2. A research plan (1–page maximum, not including references). Preliminary data are not required. Highlight the potential significance of this work to the mission of CAES and CVM, collaborations between the colleges and be explicit in the work to be done by each.
3. In a separate section (2–page maximum), include:
 - a. A brief budget and justification. **NOTE: An award of \$10,000 is a TOTAL amount.** Awards represent total costs for all labs and should indicate the portions used by each laboratory. Your budget can include supplies, animal purchase, per diems, and core facility use fees. Indirect and any other costs are not allowable.
 - b. Proposed milestones/deliverables and timeline (1–2 paragraphs) between August 1, 2026 and August 31, 2026.
 - c. Relationship of this research (or not) to your primary research (1 paragraph).
 - d. A plan for at least one mini–study leave. These are up to a two–week immersion in a partnering lab to learn a new technique or engage in a similar academic pursuit. You should include a short paragraph detailing how you will make use of a mini–study leave as part of this pilot program. Any CAES or CVM lab is eligible, if the technique(s) you will learn are relevant to the proposed project.
 - e. Description (a few sentences) of how the faculty advisors will provide mentorship for this pilot award (i.e., a once–monthly joint zoom meeting).

Advisor Support:

Each proposal must include a cover letter signed by the trainee faculty advisors stating explicitly that they approve of the application and that the proposed work is not currently underway in the lab (*although note that it may be related to the primary or thesis project*). Note in the cover letter the position of the trainee(s), and how long the trainee(s) has held that position (i.e., third–year graduate student).

Individual trainees may apply. This program is open to any trainee team at CVM and CAES but at least one representative from each college. Trainees may not submit more than one application per year. Trainees awarded in 2025 are ineligible.