

How to Begin Your Participation in a Grower On-Farm Research Network

You can begin your participation in a grower on-farm research network at four different involvement levels. It is a three step process.

***Step 1:** Review the list of Involvement Levels (1-4) that we have listed and described below. As you review them, consider which one may be the most appropriate for you at this time.*

Level 1 – Enter Research Idea Contest: Submit a research idea that would be helpful to you and other farmers. If your idea is selected for further research you will receive an award of \$250 and you will be encouraged to participate in the development of the research design. The maximum number of awards will be ten. The important thing is how the idea may help solve a problem or identify an opportunity to improve the profitability of wheat or soybean.

Level 2 – Share Your 2015 On-Farm Research Project and Results: Many growers are doing their own in-field research. If you plan to do your own in-field research this crop season, consider sharing your plan and results with the network. By sharing your plans there may be an opportunity to combine your results with other similar research being conducted by other growers. If the network is able to combine results from similar projects it should allow for better analysis and interpretation of results for each individual location. If your project is selected and you report the results at our December small group meeting, you will receive \$500. The selection criteria will be based on the value of the research to other growers and/or the ability to combine the results with similar projects submitted to the network.

Level 3 – Conduct a Coordinated Research Project: In coordination with other growers, participate in one or more research projects from the list of priority areas of interest, which is enclosed. All participating growers in the Coordinated Research Project will use a similar research design so that results can be compared across locations. Participants will receive individual assistance from agronomists in the form of coordination, trial design that fits an individual farm/field but which is also comparable across the multiple locations of the coordinated group. There will be assistance with data collection throughout the season including harvest. A project will include four replications for each treatment and the control. There may be additional requirements depending on the specific area of interest. For participating you will receive up to \$1,500 per trial to help defray some of the costs associated with each specific coordinated project.

Level 4 – Submit a Mini-Research Grant Application: Submit a mini grant for an in-field large scale research project that is not in our priority area of interest or one that expands on a priority area of interest. The mini research grant is designed for growers who have substantial experience with managing on-farm research and who have a complex research idea that they may require additional assistance to make it feasible to conduct and complete. The mini grant should outline the research objective, the uniqueness, the value of the research to other growers, the research design, how you would share the results, the type of assistance that you need to complete the project and the experience and/or training that the you or project leader has in the area of on-farm research.

***Step 2:** Determine which involvement level you would like to begin at.*

***Step 3:** Inform the On-Farm Research Network of your desire to participate and at what level by returning the enclosed entry form or by filling out an electronic entry form at www.smallgrains.org.*