

Real Christmas Tree Board Request for Proposal

The Real Christmas Tree Board (RCTB) is focused on improving the future of the industry by increasing the value and demand for cut Christmas trees through promotion, research and education. The RCTB is a national research and promotion program supported by production assessments from both domestic and imported Christmas trees with oversight by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of the Real Christmas Tree Board Competitive Research Grant Program is to establish and conduct research with respect to the image, desirability, use, marketability, quality, product development or production of Christmas trees; to the end that the marketing and use of Christmas trees may be encouraged, expanded, improved, or made more acceptable and to advance the image, desirability, or quality of Christmas trees.

Research means any type of test, systematic study, investigation, analysis and/or evaluation designed to advance the image, desirability, use, marketability, quality, product development, or production of Christmas trees, including but not limited to research related to cost of production, market development, testing the effectiveness of market development and promotional efforts, new species of Christmas trees and environmental issues relating to the Christmas tree industry.

Please note that all deadlines and funding are contingent upon the annual approval of the RCTB budget and continuation of the RCTB based on future referendum results. Grant requests typically range from \$10,000 to \$50,000, the amount of funds available for a particular proposal will depend on the number and merit of successful proposals. The funding cycle runs from August 1, through July 31. No-cost extensions are available upon request and after filing the required annual progress report. Multi-year projects will be considered with the understanding that funding for subsequent years would be contingent on performance and RCTB budget availability. Keep in mind; emergency project funding may be available at any time if an unexpected need arises in your area.

Priorities set for this grant cycle funding include but are not exclusive to:

- Genetic Improvement – All species, all growing regions
- Environmental and Socio-Economic Benefit of Real Trees – Health effects, green space, sustainability
- Insect/Pest Management – insects impacting Christmas tree survivability and quality, wildlife damage, herbicide resistant weeds,
- Improved technology – labor reduction, safety, cost benefit, quality of end-product (baling materials, baler pulling devices, shaking, needle loss)
- Disease Management/Resistance

Please email research@realchristmastreeboard.org for additional information or questions.

The RCTB is governed by the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411-7425) and the Christmas Tree Promotion, Research, and Information Order (7 CFR 1214), which requires all non-proprietary information collected as part of the project will be owned, or jointly owned, by the Real Christmas Tree Board (the "RCTB" or the "Board") subject to the contract provisions below:

Copyright, Patent and Licensing Agreement Provisions

- a. The parties agree that information processes or inventions which could be protected by patents or copyrights may be developed as a result of the Project which is the subject of this Agreement.
- b. Any inventions, whether or not patentable, copyrights, information, patents, product formulations, processes, or trademarks developed or conceived by Contracted Party within the scope of the work set forth in the contract (collectively, "Intellectual Property") shall belong jointly to RCTB and to Contracted Party. Contracted Party shall promptly notify RCTB in writing of any such inventions and will cooperate with RCTB in filing of any patent applications. Neither RCTB nor Contracted Party shall sell, license, or otherwise transfer any Intellectual Property developed with the scope of work set forth in the contract without the prior written consent of the other and such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any proceeds from the sale, licensing, or transfer of the Intellectual Property shall belong jointly to RCTB and to Contracted Party pursuant to 7 CFR Part 1214.62 Christmas Tree Promotion, Research and Information Order. All Intellectual Property conceived by Contracted Party outside the scope of the work set forth in the contract shall be and remain the property of the Contracted Party.