

# REQUEST FOR TEACHING GRANT PROPOSALS

## COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### *NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS: ASSESSING THEIR ECOLOGICAL STATUS AND PLANNING FOR INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL USES*

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The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) requests proposals for teaching grants that will support efforts to assess the ecological status and develop long-term educational plans for the natural resource areas (forests, riparian corridors, wetlands, etc.) at the CANR Newark and Middletown farms.

The teaching grants have two primary goals. First is to provide our students with the knowledge and training needed to characterize the current ecological status of our natural resource areas. Information from these projects will contribute to the development of future plans for the use of these valuable college resources in a wide variety of teaching and undergraduate research programs. Examples of information that could be obtained by faculty and students involved in teaching grant projects include:

- < *Inventory and relative distribution of native plant species*
- < *Analysis of the current extent and potential problems with invasive plants and insects*
- < *Variability in avian species and population sizes between the three areas*
- < *Diversity and population density of wildlife*
- < *Characterization of soil properties and relationship to vegetation at each site*
- < *Assessment of the relationship of each site to water quality, ground water recharge, etc.*
- < *Impact of atmospheric deposition on soil and water quality and biota*
- < *Land use effects on water quality, as indicated by chemical or biological measurements*

The second, closely related, goal, is to develop comprehensive “master plans”, or significant components of such plans, that can help to guide the long-term use of these areas by our college.

#### **PROGRAM DETAILS:**

1. Grants are available for courses taught in the Fall and Spring semesters of 2007-2008.
2. Projects must include teaching activities at both locations (Newark and Middletown).
3. Each teaching grant provides \$3000 to support faculty teaching a CANR course. Funds can be used to purchase supplies, cover travel costs, hire student assistants, or for other teaching-related expenses. Up to ten projects will be supported in 2007-2008.
4. Proposals must provide the following information and are limited to 5 pages (excluding course syllabus and CV):
  - S Explanation of the intent and value of the project and how it meets program goals
  - S Description of the specific teaching exercises planned, the type of information that will be collected and reported, or the educational “master plans” that will be prepared.
  - S Budget that identifies anticipated expenses
  - S Course syllabus
  - S One-page CV of faculty member(s) submitting the proposal
5. A short report describing project outcomes must be submitted no later than one month after the conclusion of the teaching project.
6. Deadline: Submit electronic versions of the proposals to Dr. Tom Sims, CANR Associate Dean for Academic Programs ([jtsims@udel.edu](mailto:jtsims@udel.edu)) by the following dates:
  - Fall semester, 2007:* July 1, 2007 (awards announced by August 1, 2007)
  - Spring semester, 2008:* October 15, 2007 (awards announced by November 15, 2007)