MEMORANDUM

TO: Department Heads, School Directors College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Directors, Agricultural Experiment Stations

FROM: Susan S. Sumner

Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs

Director, Agricultural Technology

RE: John Lee Pratt Animal Nutrition SENIOR RESEARCH Scholar Program

DATE: February 17, 2025

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will again sponsor an animal nutrition scholarship-research program for six to eight seniors with a primary major in CALS in the 2025-26 academic year. The program, sponsored by the John Lee Pratt Foundation, includes a $3,000 scholarship for each recipient. An additional $2,000 will be available to the faculty research advisor in support of the student’s research project.

The purpose of this program is to encourage highly qualified CALS students to pursue graduate study in animal nutrition through a rewarding senior research project under the guidance of a faculty advisor. **Proposals must focus on research that supports and enhances scholarship in the area of animal nutrition.**

I encourage you to alert your rising seniors with graduate school potential of this opportunity and to encourage your faculty to participate. An outline of procedures and an application form are attached. Please e-mail me (sumners@vt.edu) if you have any questions. The application deadline is **April 7, 2025**. Thank you for considering this opportunity to promote undergraduate research.

**Procedures for Applying for the**

**John Lee Pratt Animal Nutrition SENIOR RESEARCH Scholarship**

**2025-26**

1. Up to a total of eight scholarships of $3,000 each will be available to seniors with a primary major in CALS. Scholarship awards will appear as a credit to the student’s account, split between the fall and spring semesters.
2. A total of $2,000 in operating funds will be allocated to the faculty research department for each successful candidate to help support the costs of the senior research project.
3. Qualifications: Applicants must be rising seniors who are expected to complete their B.S. degree in May 2026. A minimum GPA for courses taken at Virginia Tech of 3.0 through fall 2024. Independent Study (4974) or Undergraduate Research (4994) credit for the project is optional and at the discretion of the major advisor and student. Research projects should be completed by the end of the fall semester 2025. Students will be expected to make a short oral presentation of research progress at a meeting in December 2025 and present the results of their research projects at a poster session in spring 2026.
4. Application for the scholarship will consist of the application form, a research project proposal, (prepared primarily by the student), a cover letter (one page maximum) from the student and a support letter (one page maximum) from the major project advisor. These are to be submitted to Dr. Susan S. Sumner, Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs, via email at [sumners@vt.edu](mailto:sumners@vt.edu) by **April 7, 2025.**
5. Format for the research project proposal (two pages maximum):
6. Title and primary participants
7. Introduction
8. Justification, including how this project relates to animal nutrition
9. Short literature review
10. Methods and procedures
11. Budget (include all costs, not just the $2,000 faculty grant; faculty will develop the budget, but include the student in planning)

*\*\*Awards are project specific and any changes* ***must*** *be approved by Dr. Susan Sumner.*

1. A final written report, reviewed and graded by the major advisor, will be due to Dr. Susan Sumner (sumners@vt.edu) by the end of spring semester 2025. The format for the final report will be the same as (a) through (e) for the above project proposal and also include the following:
2. Results and discussion; and
3. Potential for publication or further research.
4. Evaluation of applicants’ proposals will be by a college committee and successful students and faculty research advisors notified by April 25, 2025.

**JOHN LEE PRATT SENIOR RESEARCH**

**Scholarship Application**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: |  | Date: |  |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) | | | |
| Student ID Number: |  | | |
| Permanent Address: |  | | |
|  |  | | |
|  |  | | |
| Local Address: |  | | |
|  |  | | |
|  |  | | |
| Phone Number: |  | | |
| E-mail Address: |  | | |
| Major: |  | | |
| Academic Advisor: |  | | |
| Research Project Advisor:  (if different from Academic Advisor) |  | | |