



Canadian Cattlemen's Association
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CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Beef Cattle Research Council's (BCRC) mandate is to determine research and development priorities for the Canadian beef cattle industry and to administer national check-off funds allocated to research. The BCRC invites expressions of interest (EOI) for research aimed at achieving specific priority outcomes in identified program areas.

The deadline to submit expressions of interest is February 26, 2021 at 11:59 PM MT.

Application Forms and Information

Expressions of interest must be prepared using the file entitled 'BCRC Expression of Interest Form - Research' provided by the BCRC and submitted electronically to proposals@beefresearch.ca. The form, as well as instructions and guidelines for submission, can be downloaded from www.beefresearch.ca. In the interests of improved funding efficiency, the BCRC reserves the right to share EOIs with other research funders.

Project Timeframe

Preference will be given to projects that are up to three years in duration; if the need for a longer timeframe can be clearly demonstrated, four or five-year projects may be considered. Projects will commence no earlier than September 1, 2021, with flexibility available after September 1st to ensure start dates work with the project workplan. An approved project cannot start until confirmation of matching funds has been received.

Timelines

February 26, 2021 – deadline for submitting expressions of interest

March 26, 2021 – researchers will be notified on or prior to if they have been invited to submit a full proposal

May 31, 2021 – deadline for submitting invited full proposals

Early July 2021 – researchers will be notified of the funding decision

Research Outcomes

The BCRC has established clearly defined problem statements. **Please refer to the detailed problem statements on page 2** before deciding to submit an EOI. In addition, all proposed research must give a strong consideration to the following overarching aims:

1. Improved communication, collaboration and understanding between researchers and industry, with research/industry collaborations increasing to account for 25% of research activities.
2. Cost-benefit analysis completed to support recommendations and knowledge transfer from research projects that impact production profitability.
3. Encouragement of interdisciplinary teams undertaking systems-based approaches integrating appropriate parts of the value chain.
4. Investigate technologies with the potential to reduce labor and improve production efficiencies throughout the forage, cattle and beef production chain.
5. Enhanced awareness and consideration of relevant international research and development activities to avoid duplication and identify opportunities for collaboration.

PROBLEM STATEMENTS

RESEARCH PROJECT

Through the Canadian Beef Research and Technology Transfer Strategy, the beef industry has defined three core research objectives under which more specific priorities and research outcomes are established:

1. To *enhance industry competitiveness and reduce production costs*, priority outcomes are to enhance feed and forage production, increase feed efficiency, and decrease the impact of animal health issues and production limiting diseases.
2. To *improve beef demand and quality*, priority outcomes are to reduce food safety incidences, define quality and yield benchmarks supporting the Canadian Beef Advantage, and improve beef quality through primary production improvements and the development and application of technologies to optimize cutout values and beef demand.
3. To improve *public confidence in Canadian beef*, outcomes are to improve food safety, strengthen the surveillance of antimicrobial use and resistance, develop effective antimicrobial alternatives, ensure animal care, demonstrate the safety and efficacy of new production technologies, improve environmental sustainability and measure the beef industry's environmental benefits.

The BCRC welcomes any expressions of interest that address one of the problems listed below.

Problem #1

Effective sanitation is key to ensuring food safety in beef packing and processing facilities. Traditional sanitation practices have relied heavily on the extensive use of hot water, sanitizers and labor; while very effective, these practices are also very costly and may not be optimal from a labor resource or environmental perspective.

Challenge Statement:

Develop and evaluate cost-effective strategies to significantly reduce the use of (hot) water, sanitizers, and labor to clean processing environments.

Problem #2

In some cases, beef producers have a supply of inexpensive, but poor-quality feeds on hand; these are not ideal from a nutritional, animal health or performance perspective. Producers need economically beneficial ways to use these feeds, while avoiding or mitigating the risks they pose.

Challenge Statement:

Develop feeding strategies and/or other approaches to improve the digestibility and use of poor-quality feed in beef cattle diets.

Problem #3

Inputs such as chemical fertilizers are expensive and often weather dependent. Producers are searching for alternative and economically viable options to improve annual and perennial forage yields.

Challenge Statement:

Develop forage management, agronomic, or other strategies to cost effectively improve pasture or perennial crop yields.