



Beef Cattle Research Council
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CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

Proof of Concept and clinical trials

The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) invites proposals focused on projects **related to proof of concept research and clinical trials** that support the sustainability and competitiveness of the Canadian beef industry. **The deadline to submit a proposal is September 30th, 2019** at 11:59 PM MT. Proposals must be prepared on the appropriate form provided by the BCRC and submitted in electronic format to proposals@beefresearch.ca prior to the deadline.

With the increased investment in research through the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-off the BCRC has committed to provide research funding in two key areas that have previously had limited funding:

- proof of concept research before pursuing as a larger, more defined funding request.
- clinical trials to validate certain practices or technologies discovered through research projects and/or to facilitate the adaption of technologies that have been utilized in other sectors, commodities or countries.

The BCRC has committed funding to short-term projects in these two areas, with a maximum of \$50,000 per project. Ideally this funding would be leveraged by other government and/or industry funds to leverage check-off investments. Project length would be 6 months to 1 year unless a rationale can be provided for a longer period of time.

Proposals submitted to the BCRC that align with the Canadian Beef Research and Technology Transfer Strategy will be reviewed with final decisions to be made by November 15, 2019.

Research proposals will be evaluated for their likelihood to help the Canadian beef industry remain competitive and sustainable over the short and long term, based on three criteria:

1. Relevance to the identified research priorities stated in 'BCRC Call for Letters of Intent',
2. Scientific merit,
3. If applicable, a clear communication and technology transfer plan to facilitate the uptake of research results by the beef industry.

All proposals submitted to the BCRC must follow the guidelines outlined in this document.

Instructions and Guidelines

Project Timeframe

Only projects from 6 months to 1 year in length will be considered

Policy to prevent duplication

The BCRC regularly communicates with other beef research funding bodies. When a researcher that has submitted a letter of intent or proposal to the BCRC also submits similarly titled proposals to other beef research funders, the BCRC is willing to share its proposals and associated peer reviews. The purpose of this policy is to improve communication and coordination of research priorities among funders, minimize

duplication of effort, and ensure the most strategic and efficient use of beef research funds.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any individual or organization (academic institution, private industry, government or nongovernment organization) from Canada or elsewhere with ability and/or a track record of success in carrying out research projects in areas relevant to the Canadian beef industry is eligible to apply.

Animal Care Approvals

Any and all animals used in research projects approved by the BCRC must be cared for according to Guidelines of the Canadian Council of Animal Care. Research projects will not be funded until the institution where the research will be conducted has provided documentation showing that the research protocol has been approved by the local Animal Care Committee. If there are any revisions to the research protocol required by the animal care committee, the BCRC will review the proposal prior to allowing the project to be initiated to ensure revisions do not detract from the validity of the research.

The BCRC recognizes that obtaining an 'Institutional Animal Care Approval' can be a fairly onerous process and therefore does not insist on having the Institutional Animal Care Approval completed before submitting the proposal. It is encouraged that this process be initiated as soon as practical so as not to delay project initiation if the BCRC approves funding.

Letters of Support

The BCRC does not require or read letters of support.

Documentation submitted after the deadline for project proposals

Once a project proposal has been submitted, the BCRC may request any missing or additional documentation. No unsolicited documentation is permitted after the project proposal submission deadline.

Appeals of awards for funding projects

Decisions taken on awards made to projects by the BCRC are considered final.

Reporting

All reporting requirements will be defined in the funding agreement.

Confidentiality of research proposed to the BCRC

All those who review research proposals submitted to the BCRC (peer reviewers as well as persons directly associated with the BCRC), are required to sign a statement of confidentiality in their review of the proposed research.