

BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH COUNCIL
Funding for Research and Development

Introduction

The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) invites applications in areas of research and development that address priorities identified by the BCRC.

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 four criteria:

1. Relevance to the identified research priorities stated on the following pages,
2. Scientific merit,
3. A clear communication and technology transfer plan to facilitate the uptake of research results by the beef industry,
4. Significant leveraging of BCRC research funds with other industry and government research funds.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any individual or organization (academic institution, private industry, government or nongovernment organization), from Canada or elsewhere, with an 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.

When are applications considered?

Applications are normally considered only once annually. Specific timelines are outlined in the “Request for Proposals” document posted on this web page. As research priorities of the BCRC dictate, the BCRC may solicit specific applications from appropriate individuals or organizations.

Dissemination of Funds for Research and Development Projects

The BCRC will submit the funds allocated for research and development projects to the Institution or Organization of the Project Leader immediately upon completion of an agreement to undertake the research project. For multi-year projects, funds will be submitted annually, first at the announcement of the award and then at each anniversary thereafter (providing progress reports are satisfactory). A holdback (10% of the total amount granted) will be held back pending submission and approval of a satisfactory final report.

Timeframe for Projects

Projects may be submitted for a duration of between one and three years. Projects submitted for more than one year require an Annual Report that is due on the anniversary date of the project’s initiation. Funding for year 2 and 3 of multi-year projects is dependent on satisfactory reporting of progress toward meeting the milestones of the project.

Matching Funds

The BCRC encourages proposals that leverage industry funds to the maximum extent possible. *Budgets of research proposals are required to show the TOTAL funding required for the project and to break this amount down into that requested from the BCRC and that requested from other sources.*

Indirect (overhead) Costs

Research projects conducted in private sector organizations are eligible for overhead costs to a maximum of 30% of approved direct salaries and wages of the project personnel.

Projects conducted at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research centres are eligible for overhead costs to a maximum of 9% of total project costs.

University researchers are eligible to claim up to 15% of total project costs for on-campus research and 7.5% for off-campus research to cover indirect costs. Applicants should indicate on the application form whether the majority of the work will be conducted on- or off-campus. Any research conducted in a university owned facility, regardless of location, is considered on-campus.

Researchers working on projects on commercial farms or feedlots may add one page to the proposal to indicate how incremental costs for salaries and benefits, especially overhead, have been determined. Eligible costs are those which are above the normal costs of feeding and caring for the livestock involved in the research project.

Letters of Intent

To facilitate project submissions and to avoid unnecessary time and effort being spent on proposals with low likelihood of being funded, the BCRC usually requires that a letter of intent be submitted. Based on a review of the letter of intent, individuals or institutions will be invited to submit a full proposal. Invitation to submit a full proposal does not guarantee that the research proposal will be funded. The BCRC reserves the right to invite letters of intent, particularly in areas of research priority that they consider not to be sufficiently addressed from among those first submitted.

Project Review

Projects proposals will be submitted for up to three peer reviews and they should contain up to five nominations of potential reviewers. The BCRC Administrator will solicit reviews and reserves the right to use reviewers nominated in the proposals or other individuals. Project proposals will be categorized by the priority of research, set by the BCRC committee, and ranked by the Administrator. Final decisions on funding and financial support of projects will be made by the full BCRC Committee.

Documentation Submitted after the Deadline for Project Proposals and Appeals of Awards for Funding Projects

Once a project proposal has been submitted, the BCRC may request any missing or additional documentation. No unsolicited documentation is permitted after the deadline date for the receipt of project proposals. Decisions taken on awards made to projects by the BCRC are considered final.

Final Reports

Institutions or individuals who have had projects funded by the BCRC, will be requested to submit a final report within six (6) months of the project's conclusion. The Final Report must elaborate on the major achievements of the project and show the steps that have been taken to disseminate new information to the Canadian beef industry. The BCRC and other appropriate individuals in the CCA will assist researchers to promote achievements from research funded by the BCRC.

Animal Care

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 proposal has been approved by the local Animal Care Committee.

Impact of Research on the Environment, Human and Animal Subjects

All project proposals should include a statement or statements on how the project might impact:

- a. Food safety and human health.
- b. Environmental sustainability.
- c. Animal welfare.

Intellectual Property

Unless otherwise negotiated in specific contracts, the rights to all intellectual property arising from research projects supported by the BCRC will be held by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

Confidentiality of Research Proposed to the BCRC

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

The BCRC regularly communicates with other beef research funding bodies. When similarly titled proposals are submitted by the same research team to other beef research funders, the BCRC is willing to share 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.