

## **Introduction**

The Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA) is pleased to invite applications of research and development in areas that address targeted industry priorities.

This call does not note specific research priority areas. The research priorities noted below have been developed in part by the Beef Cattle Research Council, with additional Saskatchewan specific items. All research proposals should indicate how they will benefit Saskatchewan's cattle producers. The areas below have been established based on producer and expert analysis of significant knowledge and/or technology gaps that require additional research.

Research proposals will be evaluated for their likelihood to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of Saskatchewan's cattle producers over the short and long term, based on five criteria:

- Relevance to the identified research priorities stated above,
- Scientific merit, including statistical power calculations and economic analysis where applicable,
- A clear communication and technology transfer plan to facilitate the uptake of research by the beef industry, and to communicate results to the public and policy makers,
- Potential for impact on profitability, productivity and/or sustainability,
- Inventiveness and originality for one-off projects, or an explicit explanation of how the project fits into a larger research program.

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

## **Policy to prevent duplication**

The SCA, Alberta Beef Producers, and the Beef Cattle Research Council regularly communicate with other beef research funding bodies. When similar titled proposals are submitted by the same research team to other beef research funders, the SCA, ABP, and BCRC will share proposals and associated peer reviews. The SCA also reserves the right to share proposal titles and/or content with other interested funding organizations. 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.

The SCA also shares research proposals with the Agricultural Development Fund, and views their letters of intent and research proposals as well. However, to be considered for funding from the SCA, please also submit a research proposal to this organization, even if you have already supplied a research proposal or letter of intent to the Agricultural Development Fund, as the SCA's research proposal requires different information for

approval.

### **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.

### **When are applications considered?**

Research proposals are due Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Further timelines will be provided to the applicant as appropriate.

As research priorities of the SCA dictate, the SCA may solicit specific applications from appropriate individuals or organizations.

### **Timeframe for projects**

Projects of duration between one (1) and three (3) years may be submitted. Projects of more than one year that are submitted require an Annual Report that is due on the anniversary date of the project's initiation. Funding for subsequent years of multi-year projects is dependent on satisfactory reporting of progress toward meeting the milestones of the project. Every effort will be made to coordinate reporting deadlines and requirements with other funding organizations.

### **Maximum funding request**

Most successful projects request a maximum of \$50,000 per project, regardless of project duration. However, projects can request more than this amount, provided they have also received funding from other funding groups and provide a reasonable justification for their request.

### **Research Proposals**

Research Proposals should contain up to five nominations of potential reviewers that may be considered to peer review the project. A checklist is provided at the end of this document.

### **Budget**

#### Direct Costs

All project costs must be included, even if not requested from SCA directly. Include only funding that is directly applicable to the proposal and do not include funding for other related projects.

#### Indirect/Overhead Costs

Overhead costs are eligible at a rate of 15%.

### **Project milestones**

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For each objective listed in the proposal, provide one or more clear, specific output(s) or deliverable(s) that correspond to that objective, as well as indicator(s) that can be used to assess whether those outputs or deliverables have been achieved. Ensure that all technology transfer and communication activities are included.

This table will be used to track annual research progress and to assess whether the objectives of the project were completed as contractually agreed.

**Example:**

<b>Project Milestones</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes/Deliverables</b>	<b>Outcome Indicators</b>	<b>Year (from research commencement date)</b>
Complete Grazing Trial	-swath paddocks -graze cattle -collect forage samples -collect animal data -annual data analysis	-animal data collected -data analysis completed -data summarized -final report	2009/10

**Communications and technology transfer plan**

While recognizing that not all research goes as planned, we are interested in your plans to transfer key results back to the desired beef industry stakeholders to encourage adoption, uptake and/or commercialization where appropriate. Advancement of funds for technology transfer activities will be contingent upon the completion of a technology transfer plan and review of research outcomes by the SCA.

**Animal care**

Any and all animals used in research projects approved by the SCA must be cared for according to Guidelines of the Canadian Council of Animal Care.

**Project review**

Project proposals will be submitted for two or three peer reviews. Staff will solicit reviews and reserves the right to use reviewers nominated in the research proposal or other individuals as appropriate. Project proposals will be categorized by the priority of research, set by the SCA Research Committee, and ranked by Committee members and staff. Final decisions on funding and financial support of projects will be made by the full SCA Board of Directors. The SCA reserves the right to solicit other expert reviews of the proposals as appropriate.

**Impact of research on the environment, human and animal**

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

- a) Food safety and human health

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- b) Environmental sustainability
- c) Animal welfare

**Signatures**

Scanned or copied signatures are acceptable when submitting a proposal digitally and do not need to be submitted at the call for proposals deadline.

**Documentation submitted after the deadline for project proposals**

Once a project proposal has been submitted, the SCA may request any missing or additional documentation.

**Appeals of awards for funding projects**

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

**Final reports**

Institutions or individuals who have projects funded by ABP and SCA, will be requested to submit a final report within three (3) 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 SCA and other appropriate individuals will assist researchers to promote achievements from research funded by the SCA.

**Confidentiality of research proposed to the SCA**

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

**Submit a proposal**

Checklist for submitting a Research Proposal	
<i>Have you:</i>	
Read and followed the Instructions & Guidelines Document?	
Completed the SCAIDF Research Application Form? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including having obtained and submitted all signatures required on the Approvals sheet(s)? <i>Note that digital versions/copies of signatures are acceptable at time of submission.</i></li> <li>• <i>Do the items on the estimated project budget match the total requested?</i></li> <li>• <i>Have you provided reference list for the background and literature review?</i></li> </ul>	
Emailed the following documents to <a href="mailto:production@saskbeef.com">production@saskbeef.com</a> and <a href="mailto:info@saskbeef.com">info@saskbeef.com</a> prior to the deadline? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCAIDF Research Application Form in .pdf, .doc, or .docx file format               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Signatures can be attached via email or mailed separately</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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