

## FY 2019 Request for Proposals Sustainability Research



The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, is soliciting research proposals in the area of Sustainability Research.

Research ideas should be novel and of high industry value and proposals should focus on benchmarking beef sustainability and identifying areas of improvement.

### Primary Considerations:

- Development of new indicators and approaches to measure beef sustainability that balance social, economic, and environmental considerations and take a life-cycle approach.
- Consequential and/or systems analyses that explore opportunities to improve beef's role in a sustainable food system focusing on outcomes that can include but are not limited to beef producer and rural livelihoods, sustainable diets for health, ecosystem services, human-edible feed conversion, greenhouse gas emissions, soil health, and water use and quality, and may include scenarios that incorporate adaptation to future environmental changes.

### **Submission Instructions:**

Proposals must meet the submission deadline and follow the guidelines in this RFP to be considered. Accepted projects will be funded (or funded in part) by the Beef Checkoff.

Research objectives should be clearly defined, and proposals should clearly state their relevance and potential benefit to the beef industry. Leveraged funding through collaborations with industry, foundations, government and other sources with matching funds is encouraged. In addition, collaboration with additional researchers or institutions is encouraged where appropriate.

PIs may submit more than one proposal. A CV is not required. If included, CVs will not count against page totals.

**Questions related to this RFP should be directed to Wendy David ([wdavid@beef.org](mailto:w david@beef.org))  
PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY January 4, 2019.**

National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a contractor to The Beef Checkoff, has moved to an online portal, SmartSimple, for managing the grants process and to facilitate the submission and review of grant materials. All portal users will need to set up an account. Please visit [https://ncba.smartsimple.com/s\\_Login.jsp](https://ncba.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp) to register and apply for a grant.

### **Proposal Outline - Maximum Length of 5 Pages**

- I. Investigator(s) & Institution Contact Information
- II. Title
- III. Objectives
- IV. Description & Methodology
- V. Benefit to the Industry
- VI. Detailed Budget Table & Timeline Including Start and End Dates

Research Timetable – Project timeline can begin on or after 5/1/2019; projects must conclude and final reports must be submitted by 5/31/2021.

### **Additional Detail**

PIs should review completed Beef Sustainability projects to avoid submitting an idea that already has been covered. Completed project summaries are available at <https://www.beefresearch.org/beefsustainability.aspx>

We understand that PIs do not know the nature of ongoing research projects. However, a list of ongoing projects cannot be made available due to contracting sensitivities. Please understand this limitation and use your best judgment to submit proposals that are both novel and relevant.

### **Project Deliverables**

Project deliverables will include, at minimum, a final technical report with a full listing of research results and implications, and abbreviated executive and lay summaries highlighting key points from the full technical report. Final technical reports must follow a standard outline and be thorough and interpretive in nature. Deliverables also will include a final statement outlining all project expenditures from the institution's business office. Funds cannot be spent beyond the project end date established in the project contract. Deliverables will be due on or before the project end date established in the contract.

### **Review Criteria**

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of independent industry experts and applicants will be notified of funding decisions by February 8, 2018. Proposals will be evaluated for: clearly defined hypothesis and objectives, experimental design/methods and convincing evidence that the proposed research will change the concepts, methods, or technologies that drive this field.

### **Disclaimer**

We are aware that academic institutions have financial obligations for administering the research grants awarded to their faculty members. However, overhead costs, principal investigator salaries, tuition and equipment purchases will not be considered as part of the funds made available for this research.

Please share this RFP with interested colleagues.

Visit [www.beefresearch.org](http://www.beefresearch.org) for additional information on the checkoff-funded Beef Sustainability Research program.