

# FY 2026 Request for Pre-Proposals: Pre-Harvest Beef Safety Research

*Beef farmer- and rancher-supported research helps fill gaps to ensure the body of pre-harvest beef safety knowledge continues to grow -- particularly as applied research funding opportunities become more limited. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, is soliciting research pre-proposals in Pre-Harvest Beef Safety Research covering these applied and basic science topics for FY 2026:*

## **ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TOPIC**

- Explore potential opportunities to reduce biological and physical hazards\* associated with the pre-harvest safety environment.

\*This topic is also being considered in the beef sustainability RFP. Proposals can address one or both areas of pre-harvest beef safety and sustainability. If proposals address multiple areas, collaboration with expertise across areas is highly encouraged.

Research ideas should be novel, applicable to industry, and have a high potential impact. The *primary* objective of all projects must be to improve beef safety (not beef production and/or cattle health). Collaboration is strongly encouraged where relevant. Budgets for research trials will be evaluated based on the scope and methodology of the submitted pre-proposal. Funding priority will be focused on an assessment of information received from industry partners.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR ORIGINAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH:

- Pre-Proposal Submission Date: **May 30, 2025**
- Funding Notifications: **Late Fall**
- Budget limit: \$200,000
- Project Start Date: As early as January 2026
- Project Completion Date: no later than May 2028

## EXPLORATORY RESEARCH TOPICS: SHORT-TERM, PILOT PROJECTS, PROOF OF CONCEPT, COMPILATION

- Identify routes of entry for *Salmonella* into the animal.
- Explore technology advancements to advance pre-harvest beef safety.
- Explore the considerations for *Salmonella* or other pathogens beyond the lymph node and GI tract. *Incorporating insights from the Beef Industry Safety Summit is highly encouraged.*
- Explore the considerations for safe food production, focused on the pre-harvest environment, in areas where more than one food source is raised/produced.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR EXPLORATORY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH:

- Pre-Proposal Submission Date: **May 30, 2025**
- Funding Notifications: **Early Fall**
- Budget limit: \$50,000
- Project Duration: 6 months or less
- The RFP question addressed *should be noted in the objectives section* of the submission.
- Additional information: Successful pre-proposals from this category may be asked to present at the Beef Industry Safety Summit

## EXISTING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT TOPICS: LITERATURE REVIEW, GAP ANALYSIS, OR EXISTING DATA ANALYSIS

- Explore vectors of *Salmonella* inoculation and reinoculation throughout the pre-harvest environment.
- Explore the relationship between cattle disease and circulating pathogens of public health interest within/on the animal, carcass, or end-product. It can also include potential vectors for disease transmission that may be under-researched.
- Explore potential opportunities to reduce chemical hazards associated with the pre-harvest safety environment.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR EXISTING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT:

- Pre-Proposal Submission Date: **May 30, 2025**
- Funding Notifications: **Late Fall**
- Budget limit: \$10,000
- Project timeline should be 12 months or less.

## **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

**The Beef Safety Research Program follows a two-part application process, including the submission of a pre-proposal.** Pre-proposals are intended to be a brief overview of the proposed project. Pre-proposals must meet the submission deadline and follow the guidelines in the RFP to be considered. Pre-proposals should clearly state their relevance 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. Accepted pre-proposals will then be considered for full proposal submission. Accepted full proposals will be funded (or funded in part) by the Beef Checkoff.

**PRE-PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY May 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm EST via the BeefGrants system.**

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

## **PRE-PROPOSAL OUTLINE:**

- Lay Project Title
- Research Project Title
- Timeline
- Budget
- Objectives
- Problem/Research Need
- Abbreviated Materials and Methods
- Industry Impact
- Collaborators/ In-kind Support
- Preliminary Data (optional)

### **REVIEW CRITERIA:**

Pre-proposals will be reviewed by a panel of independent industry experts. Pre-proposals will be evaluated for: clearly defined hypothesis and objectives, research needs within the industry, and convincing evidence that the proposed research will change the concepts, methods, or technologies that drive this field.

All PIs will be notified of pre-proposal outcomes in mid-June. Pre-proposals selected to submit full proposals will receive further instructions and shall be submitted via the BeefGrants system. Full proposals will include a more robust description of the intended project and will be evaluated with the same criteria listed above.

### **PUBLICATION COSTS:**

Publication of all research is expected regardless of outcome, however, financial support for manuscript publication is considered separate from research contracts. Once your project is completed and the final report is submitted, please reach out to NCBA staff to receive more information on the new publishing guidance.

### **ADDITIONAL DETAILS:**

PIs should review completed Beef Safety projects to avoid submitting an idea that has already been covered. Completed project summaries are available at <https://www.beefresearch.org/programs/beef-safety>.

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 sensitivity. Please understand this limitation and use your best judgment to submit proposals that are both novel and relevant. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out.

### **PROJECT DELIVERABLES:**

Project deliverables will include, at a minimum, a final technical report with a full listing of research results and implications, and an abbreviated executive summary highlighting key points from the full technical report. Final technical reports must follow a standard outline and be thorough and interpretive in nature. Deliverables will also 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.

**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. View the full indirect cost statement [here](#).

**Fill out this [form](#) to contact us and setup a meeting to answer questions for this RFP.**

**Please share this RFP with interested colleagues.**

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