

# FY 2027 Request for Pre-Proposals: Human Nutrition Research

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*The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor of the Beef Checkoff, is soliciting research pre-proposals in Human Nutrition Research for FY 2027 to expand research efforts to advance our understanding of beef's nutrient density and its role in healthy dietary patterns at every life stage. Beef farmer- and rancher-supported research helps fill knowledge gaps particularly as applied research funding opportunities become more limited. This research also provides evidence-based information to help consumers make informed healthy food choices.*

*Whole foods, including beef, are more than vehicles for individual nutrients; rather, they are complex matrices in which nutrients and non-nutrient compounds interact, producing physiological effects that differ from those of isolated nutrients consumed individually. Beef is a nutrient-dense, high-quality protein food with a unique whole-food matrix that has not yet been fully examined in nutrition research.*

*This RFP is the first in a new 5-year research roadmap that will span from 2026-2030. Research priorities are expected to evolve as existing knowledge gaps are addressed and as emerging industry and public health needs shape new areas of focus. The scope of the current RFP is to further characterize beef's nutrient density through evidence on the bioactive landscape of beef, including discovery, bioavailability, and potential for clinically meaningful health impact.*

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## **TOPICS OF INTEREST INCLUDE:**

- Identification of beef bioactives.
- Assessment of bioavailability beef bioactives.
- Understanding of the role of beef bioactives as biomarkers for clinically meaningful health outcomes.
- Assessment of the interaction of beef's whole food matrix on physiological outcomes.
  - Examples include but are not limited to the impact of the beef lipid matrix on cardiometabolic health and beef's nutrient density on growth and development.
- Evaluation of the impact of the microbiome on the physiological effect of beef's nutrients and/or bioactive compounds.

**IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMEFRAMES:**

- Pre-proposal Submission Date: **May 31, 2026** at 11:59pm EDT via the BeefGrants portal.
- Pre Proposal Notifications: **Mid June 2026**
- Full Proposal Submissions: **Late July 2026 / Early August 2026**
- Full Proposal Funding Notifications: **Late Fall 2026**
- Project Start Date: As early as **January 2027**

**PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION CONSIDERATIONS**

<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Budget Limit*</b>	<b>Project timeline</b>	<b>Project Completion Date</b>
Clinical Research	\$300,000	Up to 24 months	No later than May 31, 2029
Exploratory Research Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secondary Analyses<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Datasets including Big Data</li><li>○ Biological samples</li></ul></li><li>• Targeted metabolomics</li></ul>	\$150,000	Up to 12 months	No later than May 31, 2028
Evidence Reviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Systematic Reviews</li><li>• Meta-Analyses</li><li>• Scoping Reviews</li><li>• Evidence Scans</li></ul>	\$75,000	Up to 12 months	No later than May 31, 2028

*\*Budgets must be well justified and may be higher than stated limit, if appropriate.*

Questions related to this RFP should be directed to Clara Lau, PhD ([beefnutritionrfp@beef.org](mailto:beefnutritionrfp@beef.org)).

Please share this RFP with interested colleagues.

## **SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

**The Beef Human Nutrition 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.

Principal Investigators (PIs) may submit more than one pre-proposal. A CV is not required. If included, CVs will not count against page totals.

**PRE-PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY **May 31<sup>st</sup>** at 11:59 pm EDT via the BeefGrants system.**

National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, utilizes an online portal, BeefGrants, for managing the grants process and facilitating 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.

**The following fields will be required in BeefGrants (word counts may apply for some fields).**

### **APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

- Organization & Researcher Information
- Institution Grant Administration Contact Details

### **PRE-PROPOSAL OUTLINE:**

- Scientific Project Title
- Lay Project Title
- Program Area of Proposed Work (please list if applicable)
- Project Timeline
- Specific Objectives
- Hypothesis

- Proposed Methodology and Design
- Expected outcomes: scientific knowledge & technical capability delivered as a result of the project
- Deliverables (for example, pilot data or manuscript development)
- Brief Budget Description (for example, personnel, supplies, materials, sample analysis, presentations, dissemination, travel and miscellaneous)
- References (if applicable)

### **REVIEW CRITERIA:**

Pre-proposals will be evaluated for scientific merit, clearly defined research question, sound methods, appropriateness of the budget, uniqueness and relevance to better understand the role of beef and beef's nutrients in a healthy diet to nourish and optimize Americans' health at every life stage.

All PIs will be notified of pre-proposal decisions 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 be evaluated within the same criteria listed above.

### **PUBLICATION COSTS:**

Publication of all research is expected regardless of outcome; 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:**

Leveraged funding through collaborations with government agencies (e.g., USDA, NIH), foundations, industry or other sources that have matching funds is encouraged. In addition, multidisciplinary collaborations with other researchers are encouraged where appropriate.

PIs should review completed Human Nutrition projects to avoid submitting an idea that already has been covered. Completed project summaries are available at <https://www.beefresearch.org/Media/BeefResearch/Docs/checkoff-nutr-research-in-the-field-apr2026-arms-042326-11.pdf>

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](#).

For additional information on the checkoff-funded Human Nutrition Research program, visit <https://www.beefresearch.org/programs/human-nutrition>