FY 2025 Request for Pre-Proposals - Human Nutrition Research

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor of the Beef Checkoff, is soliciting research pre-proposals in the area of Human Nutrition. Beef farmers and ranchers are interested in expanding nutrition research efforts to advance our understanding of beef's nutritional qualities and define beef's role in a healthy, sustainable diets to nourish and optimize health at every life stage. Beef farmer-and rancher-supported research helps fill gaps ensuring the body of nutrition knowledge for beef continues to grow -- particularly as applied research funding opportunities become more limited -- and also provides evidence-based information about beef to help consumers make informed choices about what they eat.

All submissions will be considered, with more attention given to research pre-proposals that consider one or more of the following topics:

Original Scientific Research: Evaluate beef's role in optimal human health and well-being and the reduced risk of chronic disease through population-based or clinical research. Research can be representative of the general multi-ethnic population or of specific populations with health disparities, when appropriate.
- Growth and development during childhood and/or adolescence life stages (including cognitive development and function)
- Support age related cognitive performance
- Eating/Ingestive behaviors or diet patterns (e.g., types, amounts, and/or frequency of consuming beef) and metabolic health (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, cancer, weight management)
- Dietary patterns of emerging interest (e.g., low carbohydrate/higher meat diets)
- Comparison of types and/or amounts of dietary fats from beef versus plant-sources, other animal source foods, or ultra-processed foods and health outcomes
- Impact of beef on mental and emotional health/well-being across the life stages
- Relevant physiological-psychological measures related to improved adherence and/or compliance of healthy dietary patterns with beef
- Interactions between components of the diet matrix and whole food beef matrix*

Existing Research Assessment: Data analysis, Food Pattern modeling
- Development of a food-based diet and/or nutrient quality index/score with sufficient detail and differentiation of the types and amounts of animal-source foods
- Amounts of beef consumed and association with biomarkers of health
- Identification and/or modeling of beef in context of healthy and ethnically, culturally, and or economically diverse dietary patterns
- Examine the role of beef in accessible, affordable, equitable diets
- Understand the potential connection between beef, hunger, and nutrition and/or food security throughout the lifecycle
- Nutritional life cycle assessment on beef in healthy dietary pattern(s)

Literature reviews (systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses encouraged)
- Identification of beef in the context of healthy and ethnically, culturally, and/or economically diverse dietary patterns
- Compare and contrast existing nutritional life cycle assessments of beef
- Exploration of best practice methods to evaluate beef's nutrient matrix*
- Types of dietary fats from beef and health outcomes

The current working definition for the beef matrix: The collective nutritive and non-nutritive components of the beef food structure and their unique chemical and physical interactions that may be important for human health and are distinguishable from those of the single components in isolation.

Please also see the 2021-2025 Human Nutrition Research Roadmap, which can be found at: https://www.beefresearch.org/research-hub. For additional information on the checkoff-funded Human Nutrition Research program, visit https://www.beefresearch.org/programs/human-nutrition.

Submit Pre-proposals by April 3, 2024 on BeefGrants.

Application Guidelines:

PRE-PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY Wednesday April 3, 2024 at 11:59pm MDT via the BeefGrants system.

National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, uses an online portal for managing the grants process and to facilitate the submission and review of grant materials. All portal users will need to log in or set up an account to submit their proposal(s) at BeefGrants.

(For more information on using BeefGrants, please visit https://www.beefresearch.org/research-hub/beefgrants)

Pre-proposal Categories:

FY-25 Long-term Projects (Original Scientific Research):
- May include proposals for research trials. Funded projects usually range from $50,000 to $300,000, but could be higher if appropriate, necessary, and well justified.
- Can begin on or after October 15, 2024, with a project timeline of up to two years and must be completed by May 31, 2027.

FY-25 Short-term Projects (Original Scientific Research / Existing Research Assessments):
- May include proposals for project with timelines for up to one year, with funding limited to $100,000/proposal, unless budget is well justified.
- Can begin on or after October 15, 2024, with a project timeline of up to one year and must be completed by May 31, 2026.

FY-25 Literature Review Projects:
- May include proposals for systematic or narrative literature reviews and/or meta-analyses with funding limited to $50,000/proposal, unless budget is well justified.
- Can begin on or after October 15, 2024, with a project timeline of up to one year and must be completed by May 31, 2026.

Pre-Proposal Submission Process:
The 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. Principal Investigators (PIs) may submit more than one pre-proposal. A CV is not required.

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

- **Applicant Information**
  - Organization Information
  - Researcher Information
  - Institution Grant Administration Contact Details
- **Pre-proposal**
  - 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 in terms of scientific knowledge and technical capability delivered as result of this 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 reviewed by a panel of independent industry experts and will be evaluated for: clearly defined research question, sound methods, 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.

PIs with pre-proposals selected for request for full proposal will be notified by May 15, 2024.

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

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.

Questions related to this RFP should be directed to Clara Lau (beefnutritionrfp@beef.org).