
RDAR Targeted Call for Proposals – October 2020 Program Guidelines

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) has identified four targeted research priorities for its inaugural research call. These four research priorities were identified through the engagement sessions RDAR initiated with its Advisory Committee consisting of producer associations, commissions, marketing boards and Alberta's post-secondary institutions.

RDAR will allocate up to \$4 million in funding towards research projects and the extension of project results developed through the research call.

RDAR's Investment Priority

RDAR's mandate is to deliver producer led, results driven agriculture research investments that will increase the competitiveness and profitability of Alberta's agriculture industry. RDAR is focused on innovation that provides science-based leadership and is future driven. Submissions in response to the targeted call for proposals should be innovative and progressive approaches to providing solutions and direction to Alberta's agriculture industry.

Objectives

The objective of the call for proposals is to increase the level of research in the targeted areas and to accelerate outcomes advancing profitability, competitiveness, sustainability and food safety of agricultural products in Alberta.

Timeframe

- October 22, 2020: Call for proposals announced.
- November 19, 2020: Proposals due.
- Mid-December 2020: Funding decisions.

Targeted Priorities

The targeted call for proposals is inviting research proposals addressing one or more of the following priorities:

Soil Health and Quality

- Whole farm system grazing management and nutrient cycling;
- Environmental and economical forage crops for soil health utilization;

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- Understanding long term soil health mechanics with different cropping and grazing systems, soil amendments, minimal tillage and low inputs;
 - Soil health and carbon sequestration; and
 - Increasing organic matter content in soils.

Water Quality and Efficiency

- Water quality in surface and below surface water sources;
- Water use efficiency and water conservation; and
- Water supply, irrigation conveyance and irrigation development.

Feed Production

- Pasture management, pasture rejuvenation, high legume pastures and rotational grazing;
- Native range health, conservation and regeneration of native grasslands, ecosystem health and ecosystem goods and services; and
- Feed grain and forage production.

Plant and Animal Diseases and Pests

- Enhancing plant and animal health;
- Prevention and management of emerging and high-risk plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests;
- Management and mitigation of antimicrobial resistance;
- Rapid detection and diagnostics of economically important crop and livestock diseases, pathogens and pests; and
- Novel treatment of diseases, pathogens and pests of economic significance to Alberta's producers.

Requirements

All proposals received will be required to demonstrate the importance of the research project to Alberta's crop and livestock producers and the broader agriculture industry. RDAR's funding requirements include an assurance that research results will be communicated to Alberta's producers. This includes strong knowledge translation and a transfer plan that ensures value for money for research results to help support Alberta's agriculture and food sectors reach their full potential.

Term

Projects are expected to be 3-4 years in duration unless the project clearly can demonstrate a need for 5 years. Proof-of-concept projects are expected to be 18 months in length. Shorter projects are encouraged.

Eligible Applicants

Funding will be available to those incorporated organizations that directly and/or indirectly participate in the service and development of Alberta's livestock or crop industry, provided that such organizations are in good standing and not in default under any other agreements or programs with RDAR. Eligible applicants include but are not limited to:

- a) Marketing boards and commissions established under Alberta's *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act*.
- b) Educational institutions including universities, colleges, and technical schools;
- c) Government organizations and agencies;
- d) Incorporated non-profit agricultural associations representing Alberta's agriculture producers, and
- e) For-profit companies operating in Alberta and contributing to research benefiting Alberta's crop and livestock producers.

Eligible Expenses

Eligible Expenses, as approved by RDAR may include:

- a) Scientific and technical personnel required for the specific research;
- b) Graduate student research bursaries, according to the Applicant's institutional or departmental graduate student stipend policies, to a maximum of \$26,000 per year for Master's students and \$28,000 per year for Doctoral students.
- c) Outside consultants justified as essential to the Project/Program;
- d) Cost of supplies directly required for the Project/Program;
- e) Travel to Project sites;
- f) Travel for information dissemination purposes;
- g) Cost of small equipment, no more than 10% of total funding request, directly required for the Project/Program;
- h) Publishing costs; and
- i) Indirect overhead expenses up to a maximum of 15% where the applicant can demonstrate that indirect overhead funds are going to the department completing the project and are utilized to deliver research activities.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible Expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement by RDAR and which must not be included in an Application include:

- a) Goods and Services Tax (GST), Provincial Sales Tax (PST), Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), or other similar taxes;
- b) Costs incurred prior to or after the Period of Expenditures, as determined by RDAR;
- c) Promotional materials and marketing expenses;
- d) Website hosting/domain registration or ongoing maintenance;
- e) Social media activity;
- f) Costs for office furniture, space, equipment and supplies;
- g) Cost of building fixtures – equipment attached to the building such as sinks, walls, doors;
- h) Land costs;
- i) Normal operation, salary and maintenance costs; and
- j) Any other expense deemed by RDAR not to be an Eligible Expense.

Funding Eligibility

Individual projects are eligible to a maximum of \$500,000 in funding from RDAR. Projects larger than \$500,000 will require the applicant to confirm they have secured the additional funding before a grant agreement is signed with RDAR.

Applicants are eligible to be reimbursed for up to 100% of the cost of the eligible expenses of the project. Applicants are encouraged to obtain other sources of financial support for the project from partners that are likely to benefit from the results of the proposed research.

Funding Collaboration

RDAR may share the submitted proposal with other potentially interested Alberta-based funders if approved to do so in the application process. Applicants will be asked a question during the electronic submission process that provides this approval. Applicants with intellectual property may contact the Research Director at RDAR in advance of submitting their application if they do not want their proposal shared with other funders.

Conditions of Funding

All proposals are subject to review and approval by RDAR in accordance with RDAR's research review policies and procedures. All decisions by RDAR are final. Payment of

funds to successful applicants is conditional on the applicant entering into an Investment Agreement with RDAR in a form acceptable to RDAR.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted **only** through the online application system by [clicking here](#) under the 2020 RDAR Targeted Call for Proposals.

Letters of Commitment/Support, if available, can be attached in the online application system before submission.

The submission deadline is **November 19th, 2020 (Thursday) at 23:59**

Notice of Collection

Personal information provided by each applicant will be used to process your applications. This may require sharing your information confidentially with external reviewers to assist with the evaluation process. All personal information and project information is collected, used and disclosed by RDAR in accordance with RDAR's Personal Information and Privacy Policy and in accordance with the requirements of the *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)*.

Contact Information

For more information on the application process please email [**research@rdar.ca**](mailto:research@rdar.ca). To discuss your proposed research you may contact Clinton Dobson, Research Director at [**clinton.dobson@rdar.ca**](mailto:clinton.dobson@rdar.ca) or 780.860.2146.