

Drought and Extreme Heat Funding Opportunity

This summer, Alberta's producers are experiencing significant challenges created by extreme heat and resulting drought. Extended periods of high temperatures and minimal rainfall is stressing crops, pastures and livestock. Temperatures have exceeded 34C across most of the province, with several locations recording temperatures over 38C.

To meet producer's short-term needs, RDAR is launching a Drought and Extreme Heat Funding opportunity to support research and industry knowledge dissemination on responding to the current drought and extreme heat conditions.

Through this call, RDAR will provide funding opportunities for research and data collection activities including, but not limited to:

- analysis of plants, soil and water quality;
- animal and plant response to heat; and
- building ventilation and design.

This new opportunity for research funding is also available for communicating and disseminating best management practices about:

- alternative feeds;
- grazing management;
- transportation and handling management;
- animal stress reduction;
- moisture retention;
- effects on soil conditions;
- ventilation; and
- building management.

Term

Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2022. This funding opportunity is responding to short-term needs and opportunities facing Alberta's producers. If you have any questions, please contact research@rdar.ca.

Funding Eligibility

- Funding up to \$150,000/project is available.

- Eligible expenses will be cost-shared on a 50% grant and 50% applicant basis.
 - In-kind contributions are not payable under this Call, but RDAR may consider in-kind contributions as part of an Applicant's required contribution subject to the following:
 - In-kind contributions have the same financial review procedures as other Eligible Expenses and must be adequately documented to the satisfaction of RDAR; and
 - RDAR has the absolute discretion to reduce or reject any in-kind contribution if RDAR is not satisfied that the in-kind contribution is reasonable and adequately verified.
- Funding received through any Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) programs, or other RDAR funding may not be used towards the cost-share requirements.

Review Process

Project approvals will be based on merit, and on how well the proposed project:

- Delivers value to Alberta's agriculture producers;
- Looks into a short-term response to the drought and heat; or
- Contributes to longer-term research that better prepares producers for similar conditions in the future.

Eligible Applicants

Funding will be available to 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) Provincial and municipal government organizations and agencies;
- d) Incorporated non-profit agricultural associations representing Alberta's agriculture producers; and

- e) for-profit entities, including research companies, service providers, and agri-businesses offering custom services, consulting services or general services to agricultural clients.

Eligible Expenses

The following eligible non-capital expenses may be included in an application:

- a) incremental wages for Project personnel directly related to the Project whose primary responsibility is to ensure the success of the Project. Personnel must be identified on the Project team (can be new or existing) with specific skill sets required for the Project;
- b) costs for fee-for-service providers/contributors justified as essential to the success of the Project;
- c) event registrations for a Project team member transferring/delivering knowledge to Alberta agriculture industry stakeholders, e.g. conferences, meetings;
- d) reasonable travel-related expenses directly related to the Project, as set out in the Travel Expense Policy posted on www.rdar.ca, as may be amended, and attached as a Schedule to the Investment Agreement signed with RDAR;
- e) communications with Alberta agriculture industry stakeholders directly related to the Project, e.g. social media, publication, promotional advertising;
- f) cost of new inputs (animal, seed/crop) required for the Project, including per diem costs;
- g) costs for the development and delivery of knowledge translation and transfer (KTT) activities;
- h) costs for materials, supplies, inputs required for the design, development, implementation, and extension of the Project's applied research activities;
- i) engineering costs for the Project;
- j) rentals, leases of venues, technology, and equipment directly related to the Project;
- k) cost of surveys related to gathering data required for Project reporting on performance measures; and
- l) cost of assessments directly related to Project requirements (e.g. risk, welfare, economic, environmental).

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);
- b) costs incurred outside of the Project Term;
- c) expenses paid to a Government of Canada department or agency;
- d) expenses for hosting, food, or alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages;
- f) expenses for commercial marketing materials;
- g) expenses for commercial product development;
- h) active costs associated with complying with assurance programs;
- i) ongoing administrative, management and operational costs such as wages and operating costs not directly related to the Project;
- k) website hosting/domain registration;
- l) software or computer updates;
- m) travel expenses not related directly to the Project, including travel expenses to view or pick up equipment/technology;
- n) travel expenses for individuals who are not Project team members;
- o) costs for the lease of office furniture, space and equipment;
- p) costs of equipment attached to building such as sinks, walls, doors, plumbing, framing, flooring;
- q) costs of repair/maintenance of existing infrastructure including indirect overhead costs; and
- r) any other expense deemed by RDAR to be an ineligible expense.

Funding Collaboration & Notification

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 not wanting their proposal shared with other funders must contact RDAR to discuss it before submitting their proposal.

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

If you would like to apply for this call for proposals, you are invited to apply through the online application system by [clicking here](#) under the RDAR **FastCall Drought and Extreme Heat Funding Opportunity**.

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 the *Personal Information Protection Act* (PIPA).

Contact Information

For more information on the application process or proposed research, please email [**research@rdar.ca**](mailto:research@rdar.ca).

