



September 19, 2018

**RE: Call for AgriScience Project Ideas “Improving Swine Health in Canada”
(AAFC Agri-Innovation Program)**

Dear Research Leader,

AAFC is now accepting proposals for AgriScience projects under its new Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program. AAFC’s priorities include increasing agricultural productivity, improving traits for food and non-food uses, and addressing threats to the agriculture and agri-food value chain.

Swine health remains the greatest threat to the pork industry. Swine Innovation Porc (SIP) is therefore seeking to develop a funding application for an AgriScience research program comprising projects aimed at improving swine health. Topics of interest could include but are not limited to the list below:

- antimicrobial resistance / minimizing antimicrobial use
- diagnostic test development
- vaccine development
- immune response enhancement / gut modifiers / colostrum
- biosecurity / sanitation
- enhanced data collection/interpretation for improved surveillance/control
- emerging diseases including influenzas

SIP now invites lead researchers to submit project ideas in the form of a 250-word summary highlighting the primary objective, scientific approach and anticipated deliverables. Project ideas must be submitted using the attached form.

Detailed proposals will be assessed by the SIP Board representing producers, and by SIP’s Science Advisory Board based on: 1) Potential impact in swine health, 2) feasibility of the proposed research, and 3) opportunity to attract matching funding. Leaders of selected projects will be invited to provide full proposals. In some cases, project leaders may be asked to consider combining projects to improve the quality of the full proposals. As AgriScience funds may be limited, the closing date for 250-word summaries is October 17, 2018.

As the swine research community is aware, at this time SIP has limited access to funds for direct support of research, and does not have the capacity to serve as the sole source of industry funds required for AgriScience project funding. Nevertheless, SIP can offer a number of advantages to the research community by acting as the AgriScience project industry applicant.



As a not-for-profit organization, SIP is eligible for up to 70% AAFC funding, with minimum 30% from industry. By contrast, commercial organizations can only receive maximum 50% from AAFC. The administrative staff at SIP have a strong working relationship with AAFC, are highly experienced in completing CAP applications, and in managing AAFC awards. Finally, as the industry applicant, SIP provides a clear signal to the AAFC review process, that the project has the strong support of the national swine industry.

Total AAFC's funding for an Agri-Science Proposal may be up to \$5 million over five years. Therefore, SIP is envisaging a program of 3-5 projects at maximum \$1.0 million each. As noted above, in its role as the industry applicant SIP would handle all of the administrative requirements for each of the projects on behalf of the participating research organizations.

We know this is a busy time of year for the academic community, so we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to provide project ideas.

Ideas will be treated in confidence and any requests to consider combining projects would only be done with the prior consent of lead researchers.

To submit your project ideas, please forward your completed form to info@swineinnovationporc.ca. Please feel free to contact Abida Ouyed, General Manager, at aouyed@swineinnovationporc.ca if you have any questions or if you require additional information.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stewart Cressman".

Stewart Cressman,
Chair, Swine Innovation Porc