



CALL FOR PROJECT IDEAS: Improving Swine Welfare in Canada

Background

Swine Innovation Porc (SIP) and Canadian Pork Council (CPC) have joined together to support new research and development projects that will address specific and targeted welfare priorities, as outlined further below in this call for project ideas.

Canadian pork producers will invest \$150,000 in industry contribution funding in order to support projects that will show tangible and immediate impacts on the industry. Pork producers are particularly interested in evidence-based support for the planned 2024 review of the Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs. Details on eligibility and priorities, evaluation criteria, timelines and the application process are provided below.

Eligibility and Targeted Priorities

Researchers from academia, industry, government or not-for-profit organizations are invited to submit project ideas related to improving swine welfare and assisting the industry in addressing social responsibility priorities while supporting continued economic viability. The targeted research priorities are therefore as follows:

- Developing/updating methods for euthanasia (individual and mass destruction)
- Strategies and evaluation of environmental enrichment, particularly for sows during gestation and farrowing.
- Assessing/monitoring risk factors associated with sow mortality and developing mitigation strategies
- Developing pain management strategies for postpartum sows
- Improving trailer design for better animal welfare (assessment and enhancement of pig welfare during transport)

Funding information

Applicants are requested to demonstrate a strategy on how to best leverage up to \$50,000 in pork producer funding with other sources of funding. However, exceptionally, stronger proposals requesting higher amounts may be considered. Examples of additional sources of funding may include:

- Federal or provincial government programs (i.e.: NSERC Alliance program, Canadian Agricultural Partnership, etc.)
- Private industry partners
- Not-for-profit organizations

IMPORTANT NOTE: Given that Canadian pork producers will invest in projects retained from this call for project ideas, requesting additional funds from provincial pork producer organizations is discouraged.

Evaluation

A SIP evaluation committee of experts from industry and the scientific community will review and select retained project ideas. The evaluation criteria will include:

- Impact on pig welfare in target priority themes
- Speed, practicality and economic viability of implementation
- Ability to leverage additional funds
- Scientific merit

Leaders of selected project ideas will be provided with letters of support regarding the funding contribution. Funds will be released upon receipt of a full proposal and confirmation of additional sources of funding. Proposals may be submitted to SIP in the form required by the agency/program providing additional project funds.

Timelines

The expected timelines for evaluation and project duration are as follows:

- Evaluation by SIP's committee of experts: January 2021
- Response regarding retained projects ideas: February 2021
- Maximum duration of the project: 2 years, ending date should not exceed June 2023

One of SIP primary roles is to enhance collaboration across Canada for the swine sector. Therefore, for this call for project ideas, it is possible that some project leaders may be asked to consider combining projects with other researchers in order to increase overall collaboration, the project's impact/scope, as well as to avoid any unnecessary duplication.

Please feel free to contact us at info@swineinnovationporc.ca if you have any questions or if you require additional information regarding this call for project ideas.

How to Submit Project Ideas

To proceed with your application, please complete the Application Form found on our website at www.swineinnovationporc.ca/resource-calls-for-proposals.

Completed forms may be submitted to info@swineinnovationporc.ca. The closing date for submitting applications is **December 15, 2020, 4:00 pm EST**.



Swine Innovation Porc

This call for proposals was launched on November 6, 2020