

# Swine Innovation Porc

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## Advancing Swine Research – Call for Proposals Instructions and Guidelines

**Deadline for submissions: April 23, 2025, at 3:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time**

### Background

Swine Innovation Porc (SIP) is the national facilitator of research efforts for the benefit of Canada's Pork sector. We coordinate the efforts of industry, academia, and government stakeholders to gain new knowledge and advance innovation. SIP empowers and collaborates with provincial pork organization members to pursue science-based research and knowledge transfer opportunities aligned with the sector's productivity, competitiveness and sustainability priorities. Learn more at [www.swineinnovationporc.ca/our-strategies-priorities](http://www.swineinnovationporc.ca/our-strategies-priorities).

**This call is enabled with funding support from the Pork Promotion and Research Agency.**

### Call for Proposals

SIP is inviting proposals to address some of the biggest challenges facing the pork industry, with a focus on improving resiliency, sustainability, and competitiveness. These key priorities were shaped through collaboration with Provincial Pork Organizations and industry stakeholders, ensuring the call for proposals reflects what matters most to the sector. With support from the Pork Promotion and Research Agency (PPRA), we're excited to advance research that brings new knowledge and practical, real-world solutions to strengthen the pork industry's long-term success.

We invite you to contribute to this effort by submitting proposals that align with prioritized areas, driving the pork industry forward in a sustainable and competitive direction.

### Eligibility

Eligible Applicants Individuals or organizations with proven expertise and/or a successful track record in conducting research projects in relevant fields are eligible to apply. This includes:

- Universities & colleges

- Organizations and associations
- Government research institutions

### Key Priority Topics

We are seeking proposals addressing key priority topics that have a significant impact on the pork industry.

<p><b>Animal Health</b></p>	<p><b>Expected Outcome:</b> Development of novel technologies and strategies to mitigate risks of endemic diseases, and safeguard herd health.</p> <p><b>Key Research Areas:</b> Endemic animal diseases (e.g., PRRS, Strep suis, etc.): Improving the prevention, management, and mitigation of these diseases.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and early disease detection and management.</li> <li>• Exploration of alternative approaches to disease management to reduce reliance on antibiotics.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Buildings and Equipment</b></p>	<p><b>Expected Outcome:</b> Creation of innovative designs, materials, and technologies that reduce capital and operating costs, improve energy efficiency, and promote productivity and/or animal welfare across all stages of production.</p> <p><b>Key Research Areas:</b> Advancing alternative housing designs that balance pig wellbeing, environmental considerations, and economic viability.</p> <p><b>Examples :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of innovative and smart technologies to enhance production efficiency.</li> <li>• Engineering and technological solutions focused on improving animal care and advancing sustainability.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Product Quality</b></p>	<p><b>Expected Outcome:</b> Improved control of foodborne pathogens, extended shelf life of pork products, and enhanced consumer trust in food safety.</p>

	<p><b>Key Research Areas:</b> Development of interventions to control foodborne pathogens during production and processing, or improved knowledge of food safety issues to inform public trust and policy decisions.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative techniques to extend product shelf life while maintaining quality and food safety.</li> <li>• Research supporting science-based policy decisions and consumer perceptions related to food safety, such as safe cooking temperature guidelines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improving Energy and Water Efficiency</b></p>	<p><b>Expected Outcome:</b> Development of scientific tools and strategies to measure and mitigate the environmental footprint of pork production, fostering sustainability.</p> <p><b>Key Research Areas:</b> Improving Energy-use and Water Efficiency, and reducing Emissions in barn construction/modernization</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring sustainable waste management practices.</li> <li>• Quantifying and reducing greenhouse gas emissions across production systems.</li> </ul>

### Encouragement for Idea Development

We aim to balance providing direction while encouraging innovative ideas. If you are uncertain about the alignment of your proposal with these key priorities, please contact SIP for feedback and guidance.

### Project Types

- **Discovery or Applied Research Projects:**  
These include core or early-stage research and applied research. For core or early-stage research, researchers are expected to clearly outline the post-project steps necessary for the research to eventually benefit producers.

- **Short-Term Projects:**

These targets "quick win" initiatives such as economic impact studies, proof of concept projects, pilot studies, best management practices, and knowledge translation or demonstration projects. Short-term projects are expected to have a timeline of a year or less. These projects are subject to the same budget requirements and deadlines as Discovery or Applied Research Projects unless otherwise specified.

**Regardless of the project type, all proposals must clearly demonstrate how they will benefit producers and the industry.**

#### **Timeline**

- **Detailed proposals submission deadline:** April 23, 2025 (3:00pm EDT)
- **Researchers notified of the funding decision:** July 31, 2025

#### **Proposed Budget:**

- **Maximum Funding Request per Project-** The maximum funding request per project will depend on the type and scope of the proposed research:
  - Comprehensive research initiatives aimed at addressing Key Priority Topics will normally not exceed a funding cap of \$150,000 over three years. These projects should demonstrate clear objectives, strong methodologies, and the potential to deliver significant benefits to the Canadian swine sector.
    - Maximum project duration: 3 years
    - **Note:** SIP also encourages smaller projects with shorter durations, (normally under \$50,000) particularly for pilot studies or proof-of-concept research.
- **Sources of Funding:** Provide detailed information on contributions from industry, government, and other relevant sources, if available. If funding is not yet secured, indicate the status of applications or plans to secure funding. Refer to Schedules 1 and 2 for guidance on completing this section.
- **Equipment/Capital Expenses** All equipment or capital purchases valued at over \$10,000 per item require pre-approval. Detailed justification and supporting information must be provided for all proposed equipment or capital expenses.
- **Maximum overhead fees:** 15% of the Total Project Costs.

**Note:** For more details on Guidelines to Complete the Detailed Budget Form and Eligible and ineligible costs, please refer to Schedule 1 and 2.

## Co-Funding / Partner Contributions

Applicants are encouraged to secure co-funding (cash). Greater co-funding is strongly encouraged and will be viewed favourably.

- SIP's support will normally **not exceed 50% of Total Project Costs**.
- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to source a minimum of 50% co-funding (cash) for their proposals, and greater co-funding will be viewed favourably.**
- In-kind is **not eligible** co-funding.

## Co-Funding Requirements

Projects must include contributions from government, industry or other partners. Co-funding must be in cash, and SIP funding will only be released once co-funding is secured through a formal agreement.

- **Confirmed Co-Funding:** Applicants must provide evidence of secured cash contributions at the time of submission.
- **Pending Co-Funding:** If co-funding is under review or pending approval, applicants must outline the status and provide expected timelines for confirmation.

Note: Projects with confirmed co-funding at the time of submission will be prioritized during evaluation. Projects with pending co-funding will be considered, that include clear plans and timelines for securing funding.

**Eligible co-funders** may include:

- Industry associations and networks
- Not-for-profit organizations
- For-profit business enterprises
- Provincial, Federal, territorial or municipal government
- Academic Institutions (including universities and research institutions)
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

## Important Dates and Funding Considerations

- **Project Start Dates:** Approved projects can commence no earlier than the date the applicant receives officially written notification of the award. Flexibility will be provided to align with project workplans and other co-funding timelines.
- **Funding Decision Authority:** All funding decisions are made solely at the discretion of SIP.
- **Co-Funding Requirement:** Projects are advised not to start until all co-funding is confirmed to ensure financial stability and alignment of commitments. If an

applicant chooses to proceed before securing all co-funding, they do so at their own risk, as SIP is not liable for any funding shortfalls.

## Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the Board of Directors, external peer reviewers and SIP's Science Advisory Body. The SIP Board of Directors will make all final funding decisions. Proposals will be assessed based on the following established criteria:

- **Alignment with Key Priorities:** Projects must clearly demonstrate how they address specific research questions aligned with SIP's Key Priority Topics and expected outcomes, as described in this document.
- **Strength of the Project Lead(s) and Research Team:** The expertise and experience of the project lead(s) and the research team will be a key factor in the evaluation.
- **Impact on the Pork Sector:** Proposals should highlight the benefits to producers and/or the broader Canadian pork sector. Early engagement of end users is **strongly encouraged**.
- **Quality and Clarity of Experimental Design:** The scientific accuracy, methodology, and clarity of the experimental designs critical for project success.
- **Clear and Achievable Deliverables:** Deliverables must be tangible, measurable, and achievable within the project's timeframe.
- **Strength of the Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) Plan:** Proposals should include a robust KTT plan to ensure that research findings are effectively communicated for results to be utilized and applied within the sector where applicable.
- **Value for Money:** Proposals must demonstrate efficient use of resources, providing significant value for the investment.
- **Partnerships and Leverage:** Evidence of involvement and commitment from partners will be considered an asset.

## Animal Care Approvals

All research projects involving animals that receive SIP funding must adhere to the guidelines set by the Canadian Council on Animal Care. Documentation confirming the approval of the research protocol by the institution's Animal Care Committee must be submitted to SIP before any funding is disbursed. If the Animal Care Committee requires modifications to the research protocol, SIP will review these changes to ensure they do not compromise the integrity of the research before allowing the project to proceed. SIP understands that obtaining 'Institutional Animal Care Approval' can be a demanding process, so it does not require completion of this approval before the proposal submission.

However, initiating this process early is encouraged to avoid delays in project commencement if SIP funding is granted.

### **Policy to prevent duplication**

SIP actively communicates with other pork research funding bodies to ensure alignment of key research priorities and to prevent duplication of funding. Applicants must acknowledge that information provided to SIP may be disclosed to other research program administrators for verification purposes and to confirm there is no duplication of funding.

This collaborative approach enhances communication among funders and ensures that pork research funds are used in the most strategic and efficient manner.

### **Confidentiality of research proposed**

Everyone involved in reviewing research proposals submitted to SIP, including peer reviewers and individuals directly associated with SIP, are required to sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure that the proposed research remains confidential.

### **Checklist for submitting a Full Proposal**

Have you:

- Ensured your proposal aligns with SIP's key Priority Topics
- Read and follow the "Instructions and Guidelines outlined in this document.
- Completed the following:
  - Full Proposal Form (all sections must be filled).
  - Full Budget Form (all sections must be filled).
  - Curriculum Vitae (CV) Form: To be completed by the project leader and collaborators, with a maximum length of 5 pages per person.
  - Letters of support from each Co-funder confirming their financial contribution. These should include the following information:
    - A clear reference to the proposed project
    - Letters should confirm any pending or secured co-funding from cash contributors.
      - If funding confirmed- A confirmation of the amount of contribution (cash -) committed to the project.
      - If co-funding is not fully secured at the time of submission, applicants must provide a clear outline of expected confirmation timelines.
    - An explanation why the project is of interest to the co-funder.
- Verified that all sections of the proposal are complete and adhere to the specified format and length.

- Applications will only be considered if they are submitted using the provided forms.
- Emailed completed forms to [research@swineinnovationporc.ca](mailto:research@swineinnovationporc.ca) on or before April 23, 2025, at 3:00PM EDT.

Note- Detailed instructions on how to complete the Budget form, as well as information on eligible costs, may be found in the Schedules 1 & 2 attached in this document.



## Schedule 1 - Guidelines to Complete the Detailed Budget Form

Please complete only the spreadsheets applicable to your project in the Excel workbook “Detailed Budget Form.”

### 1. R&D ACTIVITIES

#### a. Detailed description for each expense

Provide a detailed description for each budget line under each cost category.

The following table presents the cost categories and an example of information to include in the detailed description.

<b>Cost categories</b>	<b>Example of information to include in the detailed description</b>
Incremental salaries	Position title, responsibilities, number of hours planned and rate per hour
Material and supplies	Description of item, number of items and cost per item
Service contracts	Position, responsibilities, number of hours planned and rate per hour
Incremental rent & lease	Description of item (including animal use), number of items, cost per item per day, number of days
Capital/Equipment purchase	Description of item, number of items and cost per item. All proposed equipment/capital purchases must include detailed justification, and any individual items valued over \$10,000 require pre-approval by SIP.
Travel	Number of people traveling, the destination, the purpose of the travel, duration of travel, accommodations etc.
Technology transfer activities	Description of item, number of items and cost per item

#### b. Overhead Costs

Overhead costs are indirect expenditures incurred by a research institution that are required for the research activities but cannot be specifically identified as project costs.

Overhead cannot exceed 15% of the total project costs.

For more details on Eligible and Ineligible costs, please refer to Schedule 2.

## **NOTE # 2**

The Project Leader should strive to ensure that any materials, machinery and equipment used for this project has been made in Canada. Furthermore, the Project Leader should ensure that subcontractors, such as consulting and other professional services, used in the project are Canadian. Foreign goods and services may be accepted; however, Project Leaders must obtain prior approval.

## **2. Sources of Funding**

Complete the spreadsheet tab titled “**Sources of Funding**”. Please enter the name of the funding source, select the type of organization, and indicate the amount of confirmed cash. If funding is not yet confirmed, list the expected contributors and pending amounts.

## **Schedule 2 - Eligible & Ineligible Costs**

### **1. ELIGIBLE COSTS**

Eligible expenditures are costs specifically required for the execution and performance of the project, which include:

- Incremental salaries and benefits, specifically related to project activities
- Cost of goods and services and all expenditures related to shipping and transportation
- Incremental costs for rental or lease of facilities, equipment or machinery
- Equipment, such as computers, office/laboratory equipment and furnishings, that have a purchase price under \$10,000 per individual item
- Travel expenses within the authorized allocations and when they are specifically required for the project (authorized allocation to be determined)
- Production of materials required for research activities done in universities/R&D organizations or in AAFC/CFIA research centres, including translation and production of materials in the second official language
- Overhead costs: a maximum of 15% of the total project's budget

### **2. INELIGIBLE COSTS**

Expenses that do not fall within the description of above Eligible Costs shall be considered ineligible, more specifically:

- The purchase of land or buildings
- The purchase or lease of private/personal vehicles
- "Rental" charges for company-owned vehicles
- Normal costs of establishing a commercial operation
- Depreciation
- Interest and overdraft charges
- Credit card charges
- Refundable portion of the GST/HST, value-added taxes, or other items for which a refund or rebate is receivable
- Alcohol, entertainment, honorariums, gifts (i.e., gifts for speakers or facilitators)
- Hospitality expenses associated with the hosting of events.
- Travel insurance (i.e., medical, accident, cancellation)
- Travel expenses that are above the authorized allocations (authorized allocation to be determined)

- Non-essential options for rental vehicles, for example GPS and roadside assistance (collision damage waiver (CDW) insurance may be eligible)
- Gasoline purchased for private or company-owned vehicles and vehicle maintenance costs
- Expenses related to federal government departments and agencies
- Travel and accommodation expenditures for federal government employees
- Internet charges outside headquarters (i.e. in hotels, taxis), unless specifically required for the project
- Membership fees, unless specifically required for the project and a person does not already have it
- Discretionary employee benefits (i.e., parking at employer's location)
- Relocation costs for employees hired for the project
- Patent fees
- Costs for activities intended to directly influence/lobby governments
- Direct marketing, business promotion or one-on-one extension types of activities
- Costs associated with the review of graduate and PhD thesis
- Any other expense not specifically listed as eligible
- In-kind
- Other costs not specifically required for the project