



Beef Farmers of Ontario Call for Research Proposals

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) is excited to announce a call for Letters of Intent (LOI) for research projects that will enhance the sustainability of the beef industry in Ontario. BFO is committing \$200,000 per year over the next three years. Following a review of LOIs, selected projects will be asked to provide a full proposal. Please note that projects must be completed by December 31st, 2028.

BFO is fully committed to research and its importance in driving competitiveness and innovation in the Ontario beef sector. The goal of BFO's Research Program is to increase the development, adaptation, assessment, and adoption of on-farm tools and technologies that help beef farmers respond to changing demands. BFO contributes annually to support research initiatives, including our three-year research call. BFO also puts strong emphasis on producer engagement, which often encompasses Knowledge Translation & Transfer.

The BFO Research Committee recently considered both opportunities and challenges facing the industry, as well as current BFO, OMAFA, and BCRC research priorities and accomplishments over the past three years. While we are open to all ideas and encourage creativity and out-of-the-box thinking, the committee did identify the following areas, listed in no particular order, as being of particular interest:

1. Animal Health & Welfare
2. Forage & Feed Production
3. Feed Efficiency & Utilization
4. Beef Quality & Food Safety
5. Knowledge Translation & Transfer (KTT)

While KTT is included as a distinct theme with dedicated questions and considerations, it is also embedded across all themes and is recognized as essential to ensuring research investments deliver measurable value to producers and the broader industry. Similarly, understanding the potential economic impacts of research is a critical component of KTT.

The 2025-2028 Research Strategy was developed through consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, representing industry, government, producers, and academia. The strategy outlines a number of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats within the themes noted above.



As part of the review process, we will be looking for several key factors within an LOI:

- Does the proposed project address a current challenge or opportunity facing the Ontario beef industry?
- Is the work likely to leverage additional dollars from other sources?
- Is there an opportunity to bring other livestock sectors and/or research institutes into the project (Cross-organizational, cross-institutional, and cross-sector collaboration is encouraged)?
- Does your proposal include a strong communications plan for knowledge transfer of your findings and, where possible, an economic analysis of the outcomes?

Process:

LOI should be completed electronically through the Livestock Research and Innovation Corporation’s website: <https://lric.smartsimple.ca>. We encourage all applicants to review BFO’s full 2025-2028 Research Strategy, which is linked directly in the SmartSimple platform. Be sure to complete all sections of the LOI form, concisely describing your research project. LOI are reviewed by the BFO Research Committee and **must be received on or before Monday, April 27th, 2022, at 12:00pm ET (noon)**.

Timeline:

Task	Date
Open call for LOI	Thursday, March 26, 2026
Close call for LOI	Monday, April 27 th , 2026, 12pm ET
Invite Full Proposals	Tuesday, May 12 th , 2026
Full Proposals Due	Monday, June 8 th , 2026, 12pm ET
In-Person Presentations	Wednesday, June 17 th , 2026
Communicate Decisions	Tuesday, June 30 th , 2026

Questions:

Please direct any questions related to the research call to Barb Caswell by e-mail at barb@ontariobeef.com or by phone at 519-924-1731. Questions regarding LRIC’s SmartSimple application system should be directed to Jean Howden at jhowden@livestockresearch.ca.