

Swine Innovation Porc

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Advancing Swine Research – Call for Letters of Intent Instructions and Guidelines

Deadline for submissions: November 13th, 2026, at 4:00 PM Eastern Standard 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 about SIP at www.swineinnovationporc.ca. For information on previously funded projects under the Advancing Swine Research program, please visit research.swineinnovationporc.ca.

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

Letters of Intent

SIP is inviting letters of intent (LOI) for projects 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 LOI 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

Please review FAQ's on our website (www.swineinnovationporc.ca/calls-for-proposals) if there are any further questions about eligibility.

Key Priority Topics

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

Endemic Animal Diseases	Expected Outcome: Development of new technologies, tools and management strategies to mitigate risks of endemic diseases, safeguard herd health and support productivity. Key Research Areas: Improving the prevention, detection, management and control of endemic diseases affecting Canadian swine production, including PRRS, PEDv, Streptococcus suis and other production-limiting diseases. Examples • Prevention, surveillance and early disease detection and management • Development and evaluation of vaccines, diagnostics and other disease control tools • Improved understanding of disease transmission, persistence and risk factors • Alternative approaches to disease prevention and management to reduce reliance on antimicrobials • Regional or population-level approaches to disease control and elimination
Antimicrobial Use and Resistance	Expected Outcome: Development of evidence-based tools and strategies to reduce antimicrobial use, support responsible antimicrobial use, maintain animal health and reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance. Key Research Areas: Improving knowledge, technologies and management approaches related to antimicrobial use; investigating resistance development and alternatives to antimicrobials in swine production.

	Examples • Development and evaluation of alternatives to antimicrobials or new antimicrobials • Strategies to prevent disease and reduce the need for antimicrobial treatment • Decision-support tools to guide and optimize antimicrobial use at the farm and veterinary levels • Improved measurement and surveillance of antimicrobial use and resistance • Improved understanding of antimicrobial resistance transmission and risk factors
Building technology and design to improve efficiency	Expected Outcome: Creation of innovative designs, materials, and technologies that reduce capital and operating costs, improve energy efficiency, and promote productivity across all stages of production. Key Research Areas: Alternative housing designs, materials and technologies that balance animal wellbeing, productivity, environmental performance and economic viability. Examples • Integration of innovative and smart technologies to improve management and production efficiency • Engineering solutions that improve animal comfort, health and performance • Assessment of the economic and operational implications of alternative housing systems • Development of adaptable or scalable housing solutions for different farm types and stages of production • Mitigating risk of incorporating new technologies on farm
Biosecurity Tools and Technologies	Expected Outcome: Development and adoption of practical, effective and economically viable biosecurity tools and technologies that reduce disease introduction and transmission. Key Research Areas: Advancing on-farm, transport and regional biosecurity through improved technologies, risk assessment, monitoring and management practices.

	Examples • New tools and technologies to improve internal and external biosecurity • New or improved cleaning, disinfection and decontamination approaches • Development or implementation of technologies to monitor biosecurity practices and identify risks • Assessment of disease transmission risks associated with people, animals, equipment, feed and transportation • Evaluation of the effectiveness and cost-benefit of biosecurity interventions • Development and implementation of traceback program for emergency preparedness
Improving Pork Safety and Shelf life and Enhancing Pork Quality	Expected Outcome: Improved control of foodborne pathogens, extended shelf life of pork products, enhanced consumer trust in food safety and improved quality of pork products. Key Research Areas: 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. Development and refinement of methods to test meat quality and methods to improve pork quality. Examples • Development and evaluation of interventions to control foodborne pathogens • Improved understanding of pathogen prevalence, transmission and risk factors • Innovative techniques to extend shelf life while maintaining quality and food safety • Improved packaging, storage, processing and preservation approaches • Methods to assess and improve product quality • Research supporting science-based policy decisions and consumer perceptions related to food safety.
Improving Energy Use, Emissions	Expected Outcome: Development of practical technologies, tools and design strategies that improve resource efficiency, reduce

and Water Efficiency in Swine Production	environmental impacts and support economically viable barn construction and modernization. Key Research Areas: Improving energy use, water efficiency and reducing emissions through advances in barn design, equipment, management and feeding strategies. Examples • Energy-efficient heating, ventilation, cooling and lighting systems • Quantifying and reducing greenhouse gas emissions across production systems. • Integration of renewable energy, energy recovery and smart building technologies • Exploring sustainable manure, waste and resource management practices. • Economic assessment of environmental technologies and barn modernization investments • Nutritional strategies to reduce emissions and improve production sustainability
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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.

Project 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 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.
- **Equipment/Capital Expenses** All equipment or capital purchases valued at over \$10,000 per item require pre-approval. If selected for full proposal, detailed justification and supporting information will need to be provided for all proposed equipment or capital expenses.
- **Maximum overhead fees:** 15% of the Total Project Costs.

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

Evaluation of LOIs:

Proposals will be evaluated by the SIP staff and Board of Directors. LOIs 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**.
- **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.

Timeline

- **Letter of Intention submission deadline:** November 13th, 2026 (4:00pm EST)
- **Researchers invited to submit full proposals:** December 10th, 2026
- **Detailed proposals submission deadline:** February 26th, 2027 (4:00pm EST)
- **Researchers notified of the funding decision:** June, 2027

The completed LOI form must be submitted to SIP by Friday, November 13th, 2026, at 4:00 pm EST. Completed LOI forms must be sent to research@swininnovationporc.ca