

Guidelines for 2013/14 One Health Call for Proposals

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1.0 Guidelines

1.1 Purpose

The One Health targeted call is designed to contribute to the competitiveness and profitability of the livestock and meat sector by driving positive change in short term decision making and long term capacity to increase the sustainability of Alberta's livestock and meat industry. The areas of focus will strengthen industry's social license to operate by advancing capacity and knowledge in research through to full chain coordination and sustainable agricultural practices.

The Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) will invest up to \$2.0 million to support research and innovation in the area of "One Health". "One Health" can be defined as the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines - Working Locally, Nationally and Globally – to attain optimal health for people, animals and our environment.

1.2 ALMA's Investment Priority

ALMA is a catalyst for stimulating new thinking, new ideas and new approaches to enhance the reputation, competitiveness and profitability of Alberta's livestock and meat industry, and to build relationships among the various stakeholders in the industry. Proposals in the One Health call should have convergence of animal and/or public health and/or ecosystem health; and proposals from public and private sector are encouraged.

1.3 Background

The mandate of the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) is to stimulate new thinking, new ideas and new approaches that enhance the reputation, competitiveness and profitability of Alberta's livestock and meat industry. As a catalyst for change working on policy and fostering innovation, ALMA has created the One Health call to focus on specific areas pertaining to the livestock and meat sector while recognizing this is a multi-stakeholder One Health conversation at the local, national and international levels.

Since ALMA's inception, approximately \$30M has been invested in this realm of research. However, to achieve truly transformative initiatives ALMA has chosen to select fewer initiatives that have more impact on the industry by comparing all projects against one another. Further details about the ALMA focus to One Health can be found on the [One Health Roadmap](#). By targeting One Health as a strategic priority in 2013-2014, ALMA is building on the following overarching ALMA priorities:

Increased Market Access

ALMA stimulates strategic thinking on trade-related matters by identifying common goals and market access policy positions. Together with industry and governments, ALMA advocates for trade policy reforms that leverage our animal health status and identification and surveillance capabilities.

Enhanced Industry Engagement

ALMA works with industry partners and associations to develop viable strategic plans and create a more informed and unified industry. Open dialogue with industry provides the basis to explore transformative ideas, share knowledge and foster entrepreneurship.

Increased Demand for Alberta/Canada Livestock and Meat Products

ALMA encourages and assists Alberta-based companies in building marketing strategies based on competitive and comparative advantages. We seek to broaden industry experience base through direct interaction with customers and potential customers of Alberta livestock and meat products. By funding consumer awareness and education programs, ALMA helps build a better understanding of Alberta product quality.

Enhanced Competitiveness and Profitability

ALMA helps industry invest in new technologies and practices that improve efficiency throughout the production and processing sector. ALMA also funds scientific research that drives innovation in the meat and livestock industry. Our programs encourage knowledge and technology adoption, inter-disciplinary collaborations and policy reform.

ALMA recognizes the importance of animal health and the link between healthful product and healthy people. We embrace the “One Health” strategy - a collaborative effort of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals and our environment.

1.4 Objectives

This One Health Call for Proposals is designed to:

- Support research and innovation initiatives that will improve animal health.
- Strengthen foundation of animal health and food safety.
- Maintaining the industry’s social licence to operate.
- Reducing loss of brand equity and/or markets due to consumer perception.
- Protect public health.
- Support the industry value proposition, stated as “leadership in animal health and food safety”.

- Strengthen research networks that enable knowledge transfer and immediate awareness of animal health issues.
- New technologies that transform diagnostic capabilities to improve cost competitiveness, access, or timing.
- Development of real-time monitoring of animal health parameters.
- On-farm food safety research related to emerging and foreign animal diseases.
- Continued ecosystem assessment and management.

1.5 In-Scope

The following are the Areas of Interest or Priority areas in One Health:

- Anti-microbial resistance -
 - Proposals addressing reduction of antibiotic use through animal management or alternatives to antibiotics
 - Proposal addressing the understanding and/or benchmarking of antibiotic use in the livestock industry
- Reduction of inputs in animal production such as antibiotics, growth promotants and hormones to address the growing concern of domestic and international consumers.
- New and improved diagnostics platforms and technology for identification of healthy or diseased animals. Zoonotic and potentially emergent diseases are limited to diseases of economic significance in Alberta and diseases that threaten our livestock.
- Smart disease surveillance at the proof-of-concept level that position Alberta as a leader in livestock health; this surveillance would not interfere with government sanctioned surveillance.
- Proposals focussing on animal health and/or host resistance through epigenetic/genomics approaches, reduction in antibiotic use through best management practices and use of antibiotics for treatment not prevention.
- Risk assessments of disease transmission and the competitiveness of the Canadian and Albertan livestock industry in a free-trade world.
- Creation of standard assessments or certifications that the industry will use for assurance of animal health and animal welfare standards.
- New Best Management Practices or Holistic approaches to animal management across the value chain to improve animal welfare and health.

1.6 Out of Scope

- Vaccine development (pre-commercialization stage)
- Proposals for rapid genomics-based detection of E. Coli
- Prion research (Please apply to the APRI-ALMA Ideal Program)

- Diseases that are not (or potentially not) of economic significance or human or animal health risk to Alberta.

1.7 Requirements

1. The One Health proposals must demonstrate interaction in at least two systems (i.e. either Animal and Public Health or Animal and Ecosystem). The interactions can be demonstrated in project objectives and deliverables by team members with expertise in these areas.
2. Demonstration of collaboration
 - a. Preference will be given to projects demonstrating collaboration across departments and/or institutions at a provincial, national and international level (if appropriate).
 - b. Preference will be given to projects that have secured industry support (cash and/or in-kind).
3. Determination of economic impact. Projects must include a determination of the economic impact of the research results, such as:
 - a. Cost of production,
 - b. Return on investment,
 - c. Risk analysis, and
 - d. Life cycle analysis.
4. Elaboration of a well-developed, effective technology transfer plan through scientific communication and appropriate extension/industry activities.
5. Projects should be transformative, not incremental, in nature. Creative and innovative solutions to One Health Issues facing the industry are encouraged.

1.8 Process and Timelines

1. Grants can be up to 3 years in duration for approved eligible expenses, and should commence (start date) by March 1st, 2014.
2. Letters of Intent (LOI) are invited from applicants wishing to participate in the program. Information can be found on the ALMA website at <http://www.alma.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm>. Each LOI must be submitted through the on-line system, which can be found at www.fundingconsortium.gov.ab.ca/ALMA. Applicants who submit LOI's that are of interest to the funders will then be invited to submit a full proposal.
3. Applicants may request funding for one of two tiers or types of projects. **Tier I** will be for the smaller, proof-of-concept ideas that are innovative however novel. The funding request for Tier I proposals will be capped at \$150,000 for a maximum of 2 years. **Tier II** funding requests will be capped at \$500,000 for larger, multidisciplinary projects over a maximum of 3 years. Increases in the Full Proposal budget from the LOI budget will not be considered unless accompanied by adequate justification or requested by ALMA.

4. The following steps and deadlines are planned:
 - a. July 15th, 2013 – Call for Proposals announced.
 - b. August 29th, 2013, 2:00 pm – Deadline for LOI submission. Late submissions will not be accepted.
 - c. September 10th, 2013- Notification for successful LOIs and start of submission of full proposals.
 - d. October 17th, 2013 2:00 pm – Deadline for submissions of full proposals. Late submissions will not be accepted.
 - e. January 10th, 2014- All applicants notified on or before of funding decisions.

2.0 Guidelines for Submission

2.1 Format and Templates

The guidelines and instructions for using an on-line application system and offline LOI templates can be found on ALMA website at <http://www.alma.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm>; the templates are to be used in preparation of creating an LOI. Once an LOI is ready to be submitted, it is done so through the automated on-line forms. The on-line system can be found at <https://www.fundingconsortium.gov.ab.ca/ALMA/Account>. Once the LOI portion of the process is complete, the full proposal form will be made available to those who have been approved to submit a full proposal.

2.2 Eligibility

Eligibility will fall under Eligibility Requirements for ALMA's respective programming streams, either Research and Development Program or ALMA's Industry and Market Development Program. Please consult our website for specific program eligibility requirements at <http://www.alma.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm>.

2.3 Funding Sources

Applicants are encourage to obtain other sources of financial support for the project from groups, organizations or companies that are likely to benefit from the results of the proposed research and innovation. Information should be provided in the application form on other sources of support, including those applied to or otherwise contacted for assistance.

For LOIs, ALMA will share submitted LOIs with other Alberta-based funding agencies if permission is granted to do so by the applicant; having multiple funders could provide a greater chance of funding of the application. Upon submission of the LOI, an email will be automatically generated back to the applicant, requesting this consent.

The Funders will require written confirmation of contributors and their investment, whether cash or in-kind contributions, to the research outlined in the full proposal. This confirmation will be required with the submission of the full proposal.

2.4 Evaluation Criteria

Applications received through the One Health Call for Proposals will be reviewed for innovative ideas that can transform the livestock and meat sector, collaboration, impact to the industry and excellence; and in full accordance to the ALMA Research and Development Program or Industry and Market Development Program. The proposals will be confidentially reviewed by external scientific and industrial reviewers, and further reviewed through ALMA's technical review committees for recommendation of funding. Depending on the size of the funding requested, ALMA's Board Committees may also review for approval of funding.

All approved proposals will enter into a grant agreement with ALMA according to the Terms and Conditions governing the specific program area in which the proposal was approved. Please consult the ALMA website for the specific program Terms and Conditions.

2.5 Intellectual Property

Intellectual property developed and owned by the applicant must be managed by the applicant.

2.6 Notice of Collection

The personal information provided through this application process will be used to process the applications through the ALMA One Health Call. This may require sharing your information confidentiality with external reviewers to assist with the evaluation process. This information is collected under the authority of section 33 (c) and 34 (1)(a)(i) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, contact the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, Suite 101, 1003 Ellwood Road SW, Edmonton AB, T6X 0B3; by telephone 780-638-1699; by fax 780-638-6495.



For further information, please contact:

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