



Researchers invited to apply to new 2012/13 Food Safety Research and Innovation Funding Program

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Edmonton... Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions in collaboration with Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency is inviting applications to the new “2012/13 Food Safety Research and Innovation Program.” The aim of this program is to build on Alberta’s already excellent reputation in food safety and contribute to the reduction of food borne illnesses. This will improve the health and well being of Albertans while maintaining consumer confidence in the province’s food and agricultural industries. This three-year research and innovation program has base funding of at least \$2.5 million.

“Alberta’s excellent record in food safety is a testimony to the continuous incorporation of new ideas, processes and technologies,” said Dr. Stan Blade, Chief Executive Officer of Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions. “We want to create an opportunity for the next generation of science and innovation to make Alberta’s food products delicious, healthful and appealing to customers around the world.”

Researchers from within private industry, academic institutions, provincial and federal research centres or non-profit research establishments are invited to submit a letter of intent (LOI) to the program as the first step of the application process for a non-repayable research grant. Applications should have a strong connection to Alberta. The deadline for receipt of the LOI is Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. MDT. Forms and additional information is available at www.bio.albertainnovates.ca/funding/food-safety.

“Calls for proposals are ideal avenues to drive research and innovation on identified priority areas for the livestock and meat industry,” says Gordon Cove, President and CEO of Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency. “This investment should further consumer confidence in Alberta’s food safety standards, animal production, and the healthfulness of our products.”

Project proposals are limited to research involving the following pathogens: Listeria monocytogenes, Escherichia coli 0157:H7 and other verotoxigenic E. coli, Salmonella spp., and Campylobacter spp. as they relate to foodborne illness.

Projects may involve:

1. Research that will lead to cost effective prevention and intervention strategies or safe food assurance systems throughout the food production continuum.
2. New detection strategies and/or new laboratory methods for detection of these pathogens, including research that would result in improvements in rapid identification of the source of contaminating pathogens.
3. Research that could remove trade barriers and improve market access, including the development of base line information, surveillance, and monitoring for these pathogens.

This program supports collaboration within Alberta's research and innovation system and holds potential for unique food safety innovations.

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Applicant inquiries may be directed to:

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