



December 8th, 2009

Dear Potential Research Applicant:

RE: Request for Proposals for the Farm Innovation Program

I'm pleased to announce a Request for Proposals for Phase II of the Farm Innovation Program (FIP). As you may know, the overall goal of FIP is to increase the development, adaptation, assessment, and adoption of on-farm innovative technologies that help agricultural producers respond to changing demands. Please be advised that FIP is the sole provider of research funding from the Ontario Cattlemen's Association until FIP comes to an end in 2013.

Please note that the OCA Research Committee has identified the following priorities for funding:

1. Production and Feeding Strategies to Lower Costs of Production.
2. Safe Product
3. Marketing Opportunities for Ontario beef - product development
4. Environmental Sustainability
5. Improved Animal Health and Welfare
6. Economic Research and Analysis as it Relates to Ontario beef Production

While submitted projects are required to meet the goals and objectives as outlined in the FIP Information Guide, you are encouraged to submit projects that fit under the above priorities.

Please find attached three important documents you should be familiar with when submitting an application:

1. FIP Information Guide for Intake of Proposals II
2. FIP Application Form
3. FIP Milestone Performance and Budget Forms

To apply to FIP, please read the Information Guide thoroughly, complete the Application Form and Milestone Performance and Budget Forms, and email to OCA's Policy Advisor, Jen Snively at jennifer@cattle.guelph.on.ca by **January 25th, 2010**.

After January 25th, the approval process is as follows:

- OCA Research Committee reviews to make recommendations to OCA Board
- The OCA Board meets to review and approve applications
- The Red Meat Sector Committee of AAC meets March 19, 2010 to review and approve applications
- The AAC Board of Directors meets after March 25th, 2010 to review and approve applications

- If the application is approved during each of these steps, applicants will be notified and the project and payment will move forward

Please let Jen Snively know if you have any questions by calling 519-824-0334 or by emailing jennifer@cattle.guelph.on.ca.

Yours Truly,

John Adema
Chair
OCA Research Committee