

Call for Proposals:

Update to the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef's (CRSB) National Beef Sustainability Assessment (NBSA)

May 25, 2020

The Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) published the first [National Beef Sustainability Assessment \(NBSA\)](#) in October 2016. It benchmarked the Canadian beef industry across environmental, social and economic parameters, and provided a baseline to monitor and measure progress in future assessments. CRSB has committed to updating the assessments every 5-7 years (2021-23) in order to monitor progress and improvement across all three pillars of sustainability. This assessment is fundamental to ensuring consumers have confidence in the Canada Beef brand and that Canada remains a competitive global leader in sustainable beef production.

This call for proposals is to update the social and environmental sustainability assessment of the Canadian beef industry using the most current methodologies available.

OBJECTIVES

The objective is to update the 2016 NBSA, reporting progress and fill gaps. The final report will include:

- 1) A comprehensive update of the environmental, land use and social impact of beef production in Canada.
- 2) The identification of key strengths and weaknesses that should be the focus of research, communication, policy, and other supply chain initiatives.
- 3) Recommend action items and beneficial management practices (BMPs) to address these areas of concern or opportunity.

KEY DELIVERABLES

1. Updated methodologies and metrics, consistent and comparable to the NBSA 2016 whenever possible
2. Third party verification in accordance to [ISO](#) standards must be obtained for the final report, including but not limited to: 14040; 14044 and 14045.
3. A Peer review journal article summarizing results

REQUIREMENTS

1. To follow internationally respected guidelines for social and environmental assessments (e.g. ISO and UNEP/SETAC, FAO-LEAP, etc.).
2. To include the entire beef supply chain from farm to the consumer.
3. To use Canadian data and research when available. Projects that have addressed the [CRSB's research priorities](#) should be taken into account.
4. To report regional (east vs west) analysis within the national study where possible.

5. Various surveys were conducted in the 2016 NBSA to different stakeholder groups. Producer surveys must be shortened to reduce response burden and encourage wider participation. Utilization of literature and other data sources is encouraged (e.g. Census of Agriculture, the Farm Management Survey, regional cow-calf surveys).
6. The final report should be unbiased and neutral in tone. A full written report and PowerPoint(s) of the results should be provided.
 - a. To supply all electronic worksheets with completed project (i.e. SimaPro files, linked spreadsheets and chart data used in final report)
 - b. To include all supplementary sources of data (publications) to be used in the LCA
 - c. The LCA data should be submitted to the Canadian Agricultural Life Cycle Data Centre (CALDC)
 - d. To support development of CRSB communication materials such as Fact Sheets and factoids; through the review to documents for accuracy and in providing data for design.
7. For the benchmark assessment to be done in such a way that it can be easily reconstructed / repeated on a regular basis in the future. NOTE: the SimaPro files from the 2016 NBSA will be provided to work with.
8. Third party verification in accordance to [ISO](#) standards must be obtained for the final report, including but not limited to: 14040; 14044 and 14045.¹
9. A peer-reviewed Journal publication of the results should be submitted within 12 months of the projects completion date.

**In the Proposal please identify how these requirements will be met and which data sources and guidelines will be used.*

Scope

A number of items were excluded in the 2016 NBSA due to limitations in Canadian data or research available at the time. The following items should be included in this proposal, in addition to everything that was in-scope for the 2016 NBSA:

1. Dairy Cattle - were included in the Environmental Footprint by Legesse et al. 2015. Since 2017, US dairy feeder imports have increased. Canada was a net feeder cattle importer in 2019.
2. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) – will include new data on AMR transmission from animals to people. Capture prudent use to ensure these products continue to control livestock diseases
3. Nutrition – projects are underway that will provide new data on the nutritional value of beef to the Canadian population. This update should add functional units around emission per gram of protein, B12, amino acids, etc.
4. Ecotoxicity - New Canadian research will be available in 2021. Inclusion is restricted to data with direct measurements (not modeled).
5. Mental Health – The social assessment should include information on mental health stress in producers.

Not Required

Although the NBSA covers the three pillars of sustainability, we **do not require** this project to do an economic assessment; this will be completed separately then be integrated into the larger study.

In addition, the [Sustainability Strategy](#) is a separate document that will be developed by the CRSB with Council and Membership engagement. It will build on the results presented in the NBSA update.

¹ http://www.nsf.org/newsroom_pdf/su_epd_verification.pdf

STEERING COMMITTEE & TIMELINES

Due to the breadth and depth of information required to complete an accurate assessment the successful applicant will be required to consult with the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) throughout the course of the project, who will act as a steering committee for the project.

The project will start April 1, 2021 and must be completed by March 30, 2023. Applicants are expected to provide a timeline within which various components of the project can be completed in parallel and the final report can be submitted. Quarterly progress reports to the SAC are required.

Final approval will be made no later than December 1, 2020.

PROPOSAL BUDGET

The applicant(s) are expected to provide an outline of the activities and corresponding budget required to accomplish the objectives of the project.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Any individual or organization, from Canada or elsewhere, with either or both an ability and a track record of success in carrying out research projects in this area are eligible to apply.

Submit a proposal by September 1, 2020, which outlines how the project purpose and objectives will be met. There is no standard application form, but the proposal should include the following information:

1. Project purpose and objectives
2. Detailed project description and methodology
3. Project milestones and timeline of completion for milestones
4. Detailed Budget

Individuals or organizations interested in submitting a proposal are encouraged to contact Brenna Grant prior to submitting the proposal in order to obtain further information on the project objectives and timelines.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Submit a proposal via email by **September 1, 2020** to:

Brenna Grant
CRSB Science Advisory Committee
projects@crsb.ca
Office: 403-451-0928
Cell: 403-831-2983