Special Call for Proposals: Spring 2016
Variety Meat Microbiological Study of Products
for Human Consumption in Export Markets

Background:
A recent regression analysis showed that for every $1 million of muscle meat exported,
live hog value increases by $0.05/CWT but for every $1 million of variety meat exported, live hog value increases by $0.20/CWT. The US pork industry produces more than five million metric tons of pork variety meats and pork by-products each year, yet it exports less than a half million metric tons of these products. This suggests that a significant portion of US pork carcasses are currently rendered to make blood meal, meat and bone meal, fat and grease. These rendered products are usually of lower value but are often highly valued in specific countries and in many cases sell for price premiums that are many multiples of the US price. Also, consumers in many target countries often lack adequate, high quality protein in their diets. The elimination of a price wedge between the US and international prices would allow these consumers to purchase products that are highly valued in local cuisine and, in so doing, increase the nutritional value of their diets. The removal of this price wedge would also increase the value of live hogs in the US and reduce the breakeven cost of producing muscle meats for the US consumer.

Learnings to-date from in-market studies, packer interviews, price data comparisons, current export data analysis and industry expert interviews led NPB to the need for research related specifically to the status of the microbiological residue status of pork offals and by-products destined for export markets. While demand may possibly be strong, it is vital to have unbiased research across the industry to demonstrate the safety of the products offered for export.

The purpose of the research requested here is to determine current microbiological status of pork offal products destined for export to allow for establishment of a baseline industry benchmark related to safety and quality.

Request:
NPB is requesting proposals for a comprehensive microbiological survey of pork offal products, including but not limited to hearts, livers, lungs, kidneys, brains and intestines that might fit into an export market.

Microbiological evaluation should focus on:
-Salmonella
-Yersinia
-Toxoplasma
-Total Plate Count
-Aerobic Plate Counts

Proposals must include methodology for collecting any data. Successful investigation in these areas will likely require a brief literature review, in-plant interviews and collection of samples for microbial evaluation. The proposal should have a clear and detailed description of the plan of action for the microbiological survey in plants.

Preference will be given to projects that involve academic and commercial collaboration. Researchers can propose work as independent consultants or as part of a university.

Submission: See accompanying document “RFP Instructions and Format.”

Estimated Budget: $40,000