



National Pork Board – Animal Well-Being Request for Proposals

DEADLINE: Tuesday, April 16th, 2020 – 5:00 pm CST

The National Pork Board is soliciting research proposals dealing with these categories:

ANIMAL WELL-BEING - Euthanasia
ANIMAL WELL-BEING - Depopulation

Staff Members:

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NOTES:

Proposal selection will occur by April 27th, 2020.
Notification of grant awards will be done by April 30th, 2020.
Project funding will begin May 15th, 2020.

ANIMAL WELL-BEING – EUTHANASIA OF LARGE BREEDING ANIMALS

*The National Pork Board's (NPB) Euthanasia and Depopulation Task Force is requesting proposals on issues impacting the euthanasia of large breeding pigs. The specific research area of interest is listed below. All proposals submitted **must** address the specific research topic of interest described below.*

Proposals must identify and research at least one cranial alternative captive bolt location for euthanasia. Research should target large breeding-size animals (>200kg/440lbs live weight). Alternative captive bolt locations must be first tested and proven to be effective for euthanasia in anesthetized animals before they are tested on conscious animals. Proposals should include a description of the method of the confirmation of death. In order to provide results are useful to a large proportion of the swine industry, proposals that test multiple commercially available tools will be preferred.

Proposals must consider the following criteria described in the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals for the appropriateness of euthanasia methods: (1) ability to induce loss of consciousness and death with a minimum of pain and distress; (2) time required to induce loss of consciousness (3) reliability; (4) safety of personnel; (5) irreversibility; (6) documented emotional effect on observers or operators; (7) with species, age, and health status; and (8) ability to maintain equipment in proper working order.

All submitted projects should be multidisciplinary in their approach. Experimental designs must have all the appropriate controls to be considered for funding. Proposed methodologies need to be described in detail and research methods used in the study need to be validated. Projects that have cooperative arrangements with industry are strongly encouraged and will be prioritized. All approved projects using animals in research for any purpose must be reviewed by an Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) or equivalent. An ACUC approval is not only required for future publication of results in a peer reviewed journal, it also ensures a high standard of care for animals used in research in accordance with federal regulations and policies.

The Euthanasia and Depopulation Task Force has \$200,000 to fund swine euthanasia-related research. There is no exact funding limit for submitted proposals, but the budget request should be appropriate and justified for the work that is being proposed. Researchers are encouraged to find matching funds or in-kind contributions to the project. Proposals should provide a clear overall vision and objectives for the entire project with a detailed plan of work and budget outline for each of the year. Contracts will start 5/15/2020 and the deadline for research completion and submission of results to NPB is no later than 12/31/2020.

ANIMAL WELL-BEING - DEPOPULATION

*The National Pork Board's (NPB) Euthanasia and Depopulation Task Force is requesting proposals on issues impacting the depopulation of swine in the event of Specific research areas of interest are listed below. All proposals submitted **must** address the specific research topic of interest described below.*

Research Objective: Identify and validate new or improved pig size-appropriate methods for mass depopulation in the event of an ASF outbreak with the outcome of seeking American Veterinary Medical Association (AMVA) recognition of approval for methods of depopulation

- Methods of depopulation to be considered for funding include:
 - Electrocutation
 - Ventilation Shut Down Plus (VSD+)
 - Carbon dioxide (CO₂)

All submitted projects should be multidisciplinary in their approach. Experimental designs must have all the appropriate controls and include statistical calculations to derive sample size, to be considered for funding. Proposed methodologies need to be described in detail and research methods used in the study need to be validated. Proposals should include expected method setup time, expected execution time, and determination of loss of consciousness and confirmation of death.

Projects that have cooperative arrangements with industry are strongly encouraged and will be prioritized. To ensure both high standard of care for animals used in research in accordance with federal regulations and policies, all approved projects using animals in research for any purpose must be reviewed by an Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) or equivalent.

Proposals should target a throughput of 2000 head. Priority will be given to proposals targeting large breeding or market-sized animals of >220 lbs./~100kg. Smaller animals may be tested by the depopulation method after the animals >220 lbs./~100kg have been tested. As the conveyance of dead animals is difficult from within a building, methods of depopulation that utilize containment outside the

barn (trailer, liner, outdoors, etc.) or that use a method of automated conveyance of dead animals, have been identified by the task force as preferred methods.

Proposals must consider each of the criteria described in the AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals for the appropriateness of depopulation methods: 1) ability to induce loss of consciousness followed by death with a minimum of pain or distress; 2) time required to induce loss of consciousness and the behavior of the animal during that time; 3) reliability and irreversibility of the methods resulting in death of the animal; 4) safety of personnel; 5) compatibility with the safety of other humans, animals, and the environment; 6) potential psychological or emotional impacts on personnel; 7) ability to maintain equipment in proper working order; 8) legal and religious requirements; 9) sensitivity to public sentiment regarding the destruction of large numbers of animals; and 10) availability of agents and carcass-processing and disposal venues to handle the volume.

The Euthanasia and Depopulation Task Force has \$400,000 to fund swine depopulation-related research. There is no exact funding limit for submitted proposals, but the budget request should be appropriate and justified for the work that is being proposed. Researchers are encouraged to find matching funds or in-kind contributions to the project. Proposals should provide a clear overall vision and objectives for the entire project with a detailed plan of work and budget outline. Contracts will start 5/15/2020 and the deadline for research completion and submission of results to NPB is no later than 12/31/2020.

Principal Investigators (PIs) must follow all instructions according to the Instructions and Format document and submit research proposal in the required format through the Application Website in order to be considered. A link to this document containing this information and the Application Website can be found at pork.org/research. Proposals that do not directly address the listed priorities will be rejected without consideration of funding. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by NPB and the Euthanasia and Depopulation Task Force. Final funding decisions will be made by the National Pork Board. Further enquiries regarding this solicitation can be directed to Sara Crawford by email scrawford@pork.org or by phone: 515/223-2790. Or Stephanie Wisdom by email swisdom@pork.org or phone 515/223-3534.