



Potato Research Advisory Committee (PRAC)

Request for Proposals, Research Review Process

**Required submission documents located on page 5*

Background

In 2016, the Potato Research Advisory Committee (PRAC) was established to create consensus around the most pressing and far-reaching industry issues—those that can be addressed through applied science and technology. With a membership that includes state managers and growers from across the U.S., PRAC evaluates and supports potato research project submissions to various funding sources, bringing dollars into the potato industry that target industry concerns.

PRAC has succeeded in raising the visibility and clout of the potato research community. Its advocacy and facilitation have earned stronger funding from the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI), netting the industry nearly \$30.7M in total SCRI financing from 2016 to 2022. Scientists in the research community speak of PRAC's ability to push forward insightful proposals with significant national industry interest and generate a strong body of letters of support that greatly benefit the funding review process.

Scope

The Potato Research Advisory Committee (PRAC) encourages national collaboration, identifies common research objectives, solicits, and evaluates research projects, and creates a focus on a limited number of nationally supported proposals that meet PRAC's standards.

To qualify as a proposal PRAC will review, representation must be national in scope, meaning the project objectives, goals, or impact are not limited to a specific region or locality but are intended to encompass the majority of potato-growing regions, as well as all four time zones. This implies that the project's scope, relevance, or outcomes are expected to extend beyond local or regional boundaries and have implications or benefits that are applicable on a broader scale, potentially affecting multiple states, regions, or sectors across the country.

PRAC encourages collaboration across state borders and disciplines. When considering a joint proposal, please be sure that the proposed work is truly collaborative (i.e., all parties work together toward an agreed-on set of goals, objectives, and methods).

3675 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Colorado 80216
Phone (303) 369-7783

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Priority Areas

Priority areas or pillars for the Potato Research Advisory Committee (PRAC) refer to key focus areas or overarching themes that guide the committee's decisions and actions in directing potato research efforts. These priority areas are typically determined based on the most pressing challenges, opportunities, and needs within the potato industry. By identifying and prioritizing specific areas for research, PRAC aims to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively to address critical issues and drive innovation in the potato sector.

While PRAC prioritizes proposals aligned with its interest areas, it also welcomes and reviews proposals outside of these areas. Projects falling within the priority list are considered high-priority proposals, but PRAC remains open to considering innovative ideas and projects that may not directly align with the established interest areas. All proposals undergo thorough review and evaluation, ensuring that diverse perspectives and innovative approaches contribute to advancing potato research and addressing industry challenges.

Research Priority One: Crop Management. Identification and development of management tools, from seed production to commercial sales, to improve the crop quality through enhanced nutrient efficiency and other cultural practices to achieve higher yields and manageable specific gravity.

Areas of Interest:

1. Nutrient Efficiency
2. Decision Support Tools
3. Shorter Rotations
4. Plant Disease Resistance

Research Priority Two: Disease & Pest Management. Identification and development of diagnostic and management tools, including the certification system, to better control foliar and soil-borne pathogens to boost overall potato production.

Priority diseases include mop-top, powdery scab, PVY (all strains), late blight, zebra chip, Tobacco rattle, Dickeya and others.

Areas of Interest:

1. Plant Disease Resistance
2. PVY (All Strains)
3. Remote Sensing for Disease
4. Dickeya
5. Common Scab & Powdery Scab

Research Priority Three: Technology Development. Identification and development of management tools to incorporate innovative technologies into potato research and production.

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Areas of Interest:

1. Tools for Crop Management
2. Breeding for Disease Resistance
3. New Breeding Technologies

Research Priority Four: Soil Health. Identification and development of management tools to control pests and pathogens that deplete soil health. These include all necrotic viruses, nematodes, Verticillium, and other pests and pathogens.

Areas of Interest:

1. Disease-Fighting Cover Crops
2. Soil Biology
3. Soil Management Practices
4. Crop Mixtures & Rotations

Research Priority Five: Sustainability. Identification and development of management tools to address sustainability concerns within the industry.

Areas of Interest:

1. H₂O & Nitrogen Use Efficiency
2. Optimized Cropping Systems

Next Steps

PRAC will meet on Tuesday, July 23rd to discuss submitted projects. After the meeting, submitted projects will receive feedback on the next steps.

If PRAC Supports Your Project: If PRAC decides to support your project, we ask that you begin to shape the pre-proposal that you will submit to the funding source. We will still review your proposal if submitted later than the PRAC meeting date.

PRAC will meet again in September/October, where you will likely be asked to answer questions about your project. If PRAC gives the go-ahead, many letters of support are solicited from industry members nationwide. These letters become a critical component of your proposal in the eyes of reviewers.

If PRAC Does Not Support Your Project: PRAC will provide feedback for the rejection. To avoid competing with other industry proposals, PRAC may ask you to reshape your proposal or submit it at another time or to another funding source. PRAC will provide feedback and guidance alongside any proposals they choose not to support.



Submission Requirements

Due Date: July 15th

**PRAC will still review proposals submitted after the deadline. However, to be considered in the first round of decision-making, please meet the July 15th deadline.*

Submit To: Research Department, Potatoes USA
John Lundeen, JohnL@PotatoesUSA.com
Alyssa Green, Alyssa@PotatoesUSA.com

There is no maximum page limit on annual or final reports. Three pages minimum are required. Please provide a 3+ page document including the following information in bold.

Proposal Title:

Executive Summary (describe potential impacts of the proposed research to an industry audience):

Link to PRAC Research Priorities:

Principal investigator and co-PIs (add/subtract rows as needed):

Name	Address	Phone number	Email address	PI/co-PI?

Total Funds Requested (\$ amount):

Proposed Funding Agency/Program (e.g., NIFA-SCRI, APHIS-10007, AFRE):

Proposed Grant Type (if applicable):

Proposed Grant Application Deadline (if known):

Previous Publications (to prevent duplicating a research study, please provide a summary of previous research conducted in this area. Note how your project will be unique):

Background, Rationale, and Industry Relevance (why *this* project? Minimum ½ page):

Overall Objective and Supporting Objectives (use bullets to note major objectives of the project. Minimum ½ page):

