



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Beef Cattle Genetic Enhancement Demonstration Project

Agriculture Production and Research Division
Department of Fisheries and Land Resources

October 2018

1. Introduction

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources invites proposals to apply for a small herd (5 breeding females) of Hereford cattle, for research and development purposes. Proposals are being solicited from existing commercial farmers or new farmers who have had past experience in raising beef cattle, who would like to help advance the genetic diversity of the beef industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. The producer would enter into a 5 year agreement with the Beef Cattle Genetic Enhancement Demonstration Project. Proposals must be submitted to the Industry Development Officer – Livestock, Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, Pynn’s Brook Regional Agriculture Office, P.O. Box 340, Pasadena, NL, A0L 1K0, OR, Industry Development Officer – Livestock, Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, 308 Brookfield Road, P.O. Box 8700, St. John’s, NL, A1B 4J6, no later than **October 24, 2018 at 4:30 pm**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

NOTE: The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources reserves the right to approve, refuse or defer any or all of the proposals received.

2. Application Process

Interested individuals must make application in a proposal format describing their operation and eligibility based on the criteria listed below. Each proposal will be evaluated by the Project Selection Committee, Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, Agriculture and Lands Branch. The following criteria will be used in evaluating the most suitable applicant:

- Have adequate facilities to quarantine the 5 animals from any other livestock for a period of at least 28 days and have all animals vet checked upon arrival to the farm (initial veterinary costs to be incurred by FLR), and once again after the quarantine period (at your own expense);
- Raise the herd of Herefords for 5 years using the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle as a reference for proper animal management and husbandry;
- Have a herd of at least 5 beef animals (breeding females) which would be kept, bred and the resultant offspring raised for the same 5 year period as a comparison herd;
- Have access to a beef bull that can be used for clean up in the event animals cannot be bred via artificial insemination;

- Ensure that all calves resulting from this initial herd are ear tagged with mandatory RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tags and tattooed for registered with the Canadian Hereford Association;
- Provide proof of training in bovine artificial insemination from a registered trainer, or be able to provide proof of access to someone who does;
- Show proof, in writing, of a healthy Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR);
- Provide proof of land/pasture inventory to provide adequate pasture and feed availability (title to land, grant, lease/rental agreement etc.);
- Have adequate housing and handling facilities (barns, chutes, restraints and/or head gates). (Please provide drawing of barn, noting equipment above which may be onsite);
- Work with Industry Development Officer (Livestock) to ensure that all data is properly collected and maintained and allow PRD staff access to the animals and data to ensure general animal health and welfare practices are being followed;
- Provide proof of enrollment in the Verified Beef Production Plus Program (VBP+), the on farm food safety program for cattle, or start the process to become a registered member of the voluntary program;
- Have their farm listed with the Newfoundland and Labrador Premises Identification Program;
- Have access to a licensed red meat slaughter facility – please provide Name and Contact information for the facility;
- After 5 years, provide the Department with up to 2 market steers from each test group (Hereford herd and comparison herd), for quality, taste, flavor and dark cut testing;
- Work with PRD staff to determine what the optimal herd size is for their production facility. Once that number is attained, all offspring which meet the requirements for successful breeding stock can be sold at a competitive cost to other provincial cattle producers. (this value would be determined between the successful applicant and Departmental staff) and the funds received from the sale would go back to the successful applicant, and
- Should the successful producer not be able to complete the requirements of the project for the duration of the 5 year term, then the initial animals and any of their progeny would be redistributed to another location determined by the Department.

The Project Selection Committee will recommend the candidate whose proposal clearly meets the criteria listed above, provides the required documentation and has proven experience handling beef animals. Previous experience participating in research and development projects will also be taken into consideration. The Committee may recommend other special conditions that might be applicable. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Director, Agriculture Production and Research Division, who will provide the Department's final recommendation for the allotment of the herd.

The Provincial Agricultural Research and Development participation agreement will include, but not be limited to, the following terms and conditions:

- (1) The successful applicant will agree to sign this agreement for a five (5) year term.
- (2) The successful applicant agrees to collect data on all animals in test groups. Data collection will begin once the animals arrive on farm and will be completed at the end of a five year term. Two test groups will be evaluated; the new purebred Herefords and the 5 local cross breeds currently on farm. The provincial Livestock Development Officer will assist with data collection. Data collection will comprise of the following:
 - a. Calving difficulty, birth date and weight of calf at calving
 - b. Weight and body condition score of the cow upon calving, weaning and rebreeding
 - c. Weaning date and weight of calves at that time
 - d. Weight and body condition score of any bulls retained for breeding purposes before and after breeding season
 - e. Breeding soundness exam on bulls before being sold for breeding purposes (to be conducted by a veterinarian)
 - f. Maternal behavior
 - g. Weight and body condition score of each calf at birth, at 10 days old at 30 days old and then every 30 days until 6 months of age and then every 60 days until of breeding age.
 - h. Animals raised for slaughter will be weighed on a monthly basis starting at age 12 months
 - i. The number of calves successfully weaned over a 5 year period.
 - j. Number of times it took for the cow to become bred
 - k. Weight of cow at slaughter
 - l. Carcass weight, grade and quality (To be determined by meat inspector)
 - m. Taste of final product
 - n. Dark cut time

- (3) The successful applicant will be responsible for all costs associated with the animals, (i.e. feed, veterinary fees, tagging, identification, registration etc.) with the exception of those related to artificial insemination, and initial herd health.
- (4) The offspring of the animals will be used to increase herd size and once optimal herd size has been reached, any animals born from the imported stock and their offspring will first be advertised as breeding stock (sold at competitive breeding stock prices) to other producers before being put into a market animal group.
- (5) The successful applicant must have the animals on a livestock insurance program, the cost of which is the sole responsibility of the recipient.
- (6) The herd will be used for its intended purpose and will be subject to, and in accordance with, all Provincial Acts and Regulations respecting and promotion of efficient animal husbandry and management.
- (7) The successful applicant will be required to have an Environmental Certificate of Approval and an Environment Farm Plan.
- (8) The original animals and their offspring (other than market steers) may not be sold or transferred before the farm reaches its optimal herd size, without the consent from the steering committee.
- (9) The successful applicant undertakes to comply with all relevant provisions of the Animal Health and Protection Act and any other applicable Acts.
- (10) The successful applicant must not transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of the contract (i.e. the agreement is not transferable).
- (11) Barns, fences and pastures that will be used for confinement of the herd will be kept in acceptable conditions.
- (12) Vaccination and herd health schedules will be followed as recommended by the Regional Veterinary staff.
- (13) The agreement shall cease to be valid and the original 5 animals and their progeny will be removed from the premises, if the successful applicant fails to comply with any of the conditions.

For additional information, please contact:

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