

Research Priorities

for Grant Applicants



The Potato Growers of Alberta believes in supporting local agronomic research to further our knowledge and grow our industry. Every few years our members identify specific and general priorities toward which they would like to target increase research involvement. If you or your institution is interested in potato related research, here are our application guidelines. If there are any questions, please direct them to our Ag Relations Director at ashley@albertapotatoes.ca

Funding Streams

The PGA manages two different funding streams with slightly different priorities.

PGA Fund

Our PGA grant is run through our research committee consisting of elected growers. This group of researched focused growers decide where the research levies of all potato farms in Alberta are allocated to. The current priorities of this group are the following:

1. Disease Management

Research that furthers our competitive advantage against the following pathogens

- Early Die Complex
- Mop Top Virus
- Verticillium
- Powdery Scab
- Fusarium (In Storage)
- Virus Control (PVY)
- Common Scab



2. Nutrient Management/ Inputs

- Fertilization Optimization
- Nutrient Availability in Different Soils
- Nutrient and Disease Properties of Soil Amendments

3. Crop Protection Products/ Economics

- Weed Control Options (Especially in Kochia and Wild Oats)
- Herbicide and Fungicide Economic Thresholds

4. Variety Development

- New Variety Agronomics
- New Variety Disease Resistances

5. Storage Management

- Sugar Levels Management
- Ventilation Strategies with Box and Bulk Storages
- Storage Treatment Alternatives
- Effects in Storage of Different Tuber Maturity at Harvest

6. Plant/Soil Health

- General Plant Health and Resilience
- Disease Suppressing Quality of Healthy Soils
- ROI on Regenerative Practices



7. Yield Performance/ ROI (Return on Investment)

- Yield Increases
- General Crop ROI's and Economics

8. New Emerging Practices and Technology

- New Practices on Yield and Quality
- New Technology

9. Pests

- Aphids
- Wireworms

10. Water/Irrigation Management

- Salinity and Watering Efficiency
- Irrigation Strategies to Reduce Quality Defects

These project priorities are kept broad to allow for a wide range of applications. We welcome any applications that have the potential to benefit the potato industry. **The PGA will only accept applications with overhead expenses of 15% or less.**

Alberta Potato Investment Fund

The Alberta Potato Investment Fund comes from a partnership between a number of potato processors and the PGA that each represent a voting voice in advancing projects. The current priorities of this group are the following:

Eligibility and Scope:

All Letters of Intent (LOIs) submitted to the APIF program must clearly demonstrate how the proposed research will:

- Increase growers' ability to manage agronomic, economic, or production risk
- Address agronomy and production challenges relevant to seed, fresh, and processing potatoes
- Provide economic thresholds and ROI analysis for all projects
- Promote on farm decision tools and frameworks for relevant projects
- Improve yield, quality, storability, or production efficiency under Alberta growing conditions

Projects must demonstrate applicability across the Alberta potato industry and not be limited to a single processor, farm, or proprietary system.

Research Priority Areas:

1. Soil Health & Resilient Production Systems

Research that improves soil function, long term productivity, and production resilience. Includes, but is not limited to:

- Soil biology and disease suppression
- Soil structure, compaction, and tillage impacts
- Impacts of manure, compost, and organic amendments (rates, timing, risks)
- Regenerative or conservation practices relevant to irrigated potatoes
- Variety × environment × management interactions
- Crop rotations, tillage, and hilling systems
- Field level drivers of uniformity, grading, and defects (e.g., greening)

Alberta Potato Investment Fund

2. Input & Resource Use Efficiency (Nutrients, Water)

Research that improves return on inputs while maintaining or improving yield and quality.

Includes, but is not limited to:

- Nutrient use efficiency (N, P, K, micronutrients)
- Irrigation scheduling, water use efficiency, and salinity management
- Interaction of fertility and irrigation with quality defects
- Decision support tools (models, thresholds, sensors)
- Economic analysis linked to agronomic outcomes

3. Integrated Pest & Disease Management (IPM)

Research that improves prevention, detection, or management of diseases, pests, and pathogens affecting potatoes in Alberta. Priority areas of interest include (examples):

- Potato Early Die complex (Verticillium associated syndromes)
- Potato mop top virus (PMTV) and vector interactions
- Insect pest management (e.g., aphids, wireworm)
- Decision support tools (models, thresholds, sensors)

4. Storage, Handling & Post Harvest Quality

Research that improves quality retention, reduces losses, and manages storage risk. Includes, but is not limited to:

- Disease management in storage (e.g., Fusarium, bacterial issues)
- Storage temperature, ventilation, and humidity strategies
- Interactions between harvest maturity and storage outcomes
- Storage management practices for different market classes

These project priorities are kept broad to allow for a wide range of applications. We welcome any applications that have the potential to benefit the potato industry. **APIF will NOT accept overhead expenses included in a project's budget.**

Applicants are welcome to submit a project proposal to both funding streams, as we have jointly supported projects in the past. As both grants are reviewed directly by growers and processor representatives, a project has a better chance at success when it can provide a direct link to how this new knowledge would be beneficial to our agricultural community.

Application Timeline for both grant streams (PGA and APIF)

April 2026 - New LOI (letter of Intent) applications open

June 2026 - LOI Stage closes for review

August 2026- Full Application Requests are sent out to successful LOI's

December 2026- Board Approval for Successful Projects

February 2027- Funding Sent to Approved Projects

We also strongly support leveraging other funding streams to expand the scope of successful projects and can be flexible in areas that allow this.