

Research Applicant Information 2025-2026

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 Grant

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:

Top Grower Priorities

Disease Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Die Complex Mop-Top Virus Verticilium Management Powdery Scab Fusarium (In Storage) Virus Control (PVY) Powdery Scab Common Scab 		
Nutrient Management/Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilizer Opimization Nutrient Availability in Different Soils Nutrient and Disease Properties of Soil Amendments 	Plant/Soil Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Plant Health and Resilience Disease Suppressing Quality of Healthy Soils ROI on Regenerative Practices
Crop Protection Products/Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed Control Options: Kochia and Wild Oats Herbicide and Fungicide Economic Thresholds 	Yield Performance/ROI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yield Increase General Crop ROI's and Economics
Variety Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Variety Agronomics New Variety Disease Resistances 	New/Emerging Practices and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Practices on Yield and Quality New Technology
Storage Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sugar Levels Management Ventilation Strategies with Box and Bulk Storages Storage Treatment Alternatives Effects in Storage of Different Tuber Maturity at Harvest 	Pests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aphid Populations Wireworm
		Water/Irrigation Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 benefits the potato industry. **The PGA will only accept applications with overhead expenses of 15% or less.**

APIF Grant

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:

1. Increased capability of farmers to manage risk
2. Agronomy and production of seed, fresh and processing potatoes
3. Storage and handling of potatoes
4. Increased consumer confidence in food production
5. Finding efficiencies in production through crop protection, fertilizer, and irrigation practices
6. Improvement of Yield and Quality
7. Research into Early Die complex and how to prevent it
8. Greening defect reduction (investigate tillage and hilling methods/styles)
9. PMTV management
10. Greater understanding on benefits/risks of manure/compost rates and timings

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.