



DATE: August 27, 2020

TO:

FROM: _____
Tyler Rood
Research Coordinator
California Cherry Board

RE: CALL FOR SWEET CHERRY RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION TO THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD (CCB)

The California Cherry Board (CCB) is soliciting proposals for research found to be of highest priority by the industry. The CCB – a marketing order operating under sanction of the State of California – was established by California sweet cherry growers and packers/shippers to – in addition to other industry efforts – fund research found to be of greatest likelihood to significantly benefit the production and post-harvest handling practices of sweet cherry in California.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT FOR INVESTIGATORS

Operating as a committee to the Board of Directors (BOD), the CCB Research Committee is composed of appointed industry leaders purposed with orchestrating research program activities as well as developing annual research funding recommendations for presentation to the BOD for formal approval. The Research Committee and/or associated subcommittees are tasked with providing industry support to investigative teams from the development of a proposal through to the successful completion of any project. To inquire any industry-specific information when developing a pre-proposal and/or full proposal in alignment with the research priorities discussed below, please contact Tyler Rood (tyler@aamsi.com).

RESEARCH PRIORITIES RELATED “PRODUCTION”

For the 2021-22 fiscal year (FY), the California sweet cherry industry identified the following production-related challenges of greatest priority for addressment through intentionally designed research:

- Spotted wing drosophila (SWD): an investigation of control strategies for SWD that will not result in residues on the sweet cherry fruit; an evaluation of the temporal protections offered by chemistries used in industry standard SWD control protocols, and the development of more efficient use of said products to benefit the efficiency of standard control protocols; prevalence and distribution of resistant wild-type SWD
- Cherry buckskin disease or western x-disease: a survey of the prevalence of cherry buckskin or western x-disease; investigate alternatives to pyrethroids for control of the vector (leafhopper species); the relative susceptibility or symptomatic display of modern sweet cherry rootstocks to cherry buckskin or western x-disease infection
- Nursery material improvement program: an investigation into the viability of a program purposed with improving the cleanliness of sweet cherry rootstock propagated in California
- Other production: an evaluation of the economics of sweet cherry production in California; orchard systems design; improved harvest efficiency (ie. mechanized harvest/assist); etc.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES RELATED TO “POST HARVEST”

For the 2021-22 fiscal year (FY), the California sweet cherry industry identified the following post-harvest-related challenges of greatest priority for addressment through intentionally designed research:

- Post-harvest insect disinfestation: alternatives to methyl bromide as a fumigant for post-harvest disinfestation of sweet cherry intended for export markets
- Sweet cherry varietal identification: a cost-effective bioassay that would permit the identification of a sweet cherry variety using fruit tissue samples

PRE-PROPOSAL GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND REVIEWAL PROCESSES

By no later than Friday, September 25th, please send any pre-proposal grant application to Tyler Rood, California Cherry Board, 1521 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, or by email to tyler@aqamsi.com. Please reference the attached “**RESEARCH GRANT PRE-PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**” when developing your pre-proposal. As discussed above, you are encouraged to interact with industry members when developing your pre-proposal.

CCB Research Committee members will meet on Thursday, October 8th, to review pre-proposals and research advisory committee (RAC) comments on the pre-proposals, develop feedback on the pre-proposals for the investigative teams, and decide on what investigative teams they would like to submit full proposals for review. Full proposals will require a methodology component as well as greater detail in budget allocation. The full proposal deadline is scheduled for Monday, October 18th, 2020.

The operations of the CCB are entirely funded through grower assessments; therefore, as a commodity board, the CCB does not permit the allocation or use of awarded funds towards “indirect” or administrative costs.

EXPECTED PROJECT DELIVERABLES

Written Report(s)

Regarding multi-year projects: grant applications must be submitted for each year of the project. An annual report or progress report must be submitted prior to each additional grant application.

The annual report or progress report will be completed in written format and by way of a presentation during the annual California Cherry Research Review (CCRR) event.

Final reports summarizing the findings of a single-year project or a multi-year project will be completed in written format and by way of a presentation during the annual CCRR event.

Principal investigator(s) and/or project collaborators may be asked to host field days with industry members at the trial site(s).

California Cherry Research Review

The CCB hosts an annual California Cherry Research Review (CCRR) event where research is disseminated to industry by creating an interface between investigators and the sweet cherry industry. The CCRR will take place in January of 2021. The principal investigator(s) and/or project collaborator(s) would be expected to provide a presentation on the annual findings and/or project conclusions at this event or equivalent.