



Dear Research Community,

We hope your creative juices and scientific curiosity are ready for another year of proposal writing! **It is time to gear up the Potatoes Research Advisory Committee (PRAC) endorsement cycle for 2025.** We hope to see your scientific projects start to take shape.

PRAC works together to identify and establish the most pressing and far-reaching potato industry issues. PRAC endorsement has previously strengthened proposals for many "national" funding sources. When we talk to scientists in the research community, they speak of PRAC's ability to push forward insightful proposals with significant national industry interest, and to generate a substantial body of letters of support that are incredibly beneficial during the funding review process.

*Note that this is a voluntary process.*

### What We Are Looking For

(See attached letter for further information)

1. Projects with a "national scope." Typically, all four time zones need to be considered (both with the magnitude of the problem you are addressing and the make-up of your scientific team).
2. Projects that marry up with a priority set by PRAC. This is not a requirement but a suggestion. We will evaluate all proposals, but those that fall within the priorities list are considered priority proposals.
3. Proposals that are likely to be submitted by late 2025. USDA's Specialty Crop Research Initiative (USDA-SCRI) funding is an obvious choice, but PRAC discusses (and seeks) proposal ideas that will be submitted to other funding sources.
  - a. Alternate funding sources include but are not limited to National Institute of Food and Agriculture – Specialty Crop Research Initiative (NIFA-SCRI), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS-10007), Gates Foundation, National Science Foundation (NSF), & Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).

### What to Expect

- A 2-page industry support request form is part of this mailing and is due by **July 15<sup>th</sup>**.
- PRAC will meet on **July 30<sup>rd</sup>** to discuss the projects submitted by the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- After the meeting, submitted projects will receive feedback on the next steps.
  - At that time, 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 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.

We look forward to hearing from you and wish you the best with your work. We appreciate your dedication to advancing the field and ongoing research efforts.

Sincerely,

#### **Potatoes USA Research**

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