



DATE: August 29, 2022

TO: Research Community

FROM: Chris Zanobini
Executive Director and Interim 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 full proposal in alignment with the research priorities discussed below, please contact the committee's UC liaison, Kari Arnold (klarnold@ucanr.edu).

RESEARCH PRIORITIES RELATED “PRODUCTION”

For the 2023-24 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): investigation into alternative control strategies for SWD, in particular, effective alternatives or alternative strategies to avoid pesticide resistance, including SIT, cultural practices, etc., and/or the development of more efficient use of said products to benefit the efficiency of standard control protocols, evaluation of the temporal protections offered by chemistries used in industry standard SWD control protocols; prevalence and distribution of resistant wild-type SWD.
- The application and optimization of using of stem water potential and evapotranspiration for irrigation management in cherries. Research into the negative effects of deficit irrigation. water use/water quality and distribution methods. Water management strategies and impact on yield and quality.

- Evaluation of available rootstocks – Review of work conducted in the Pacific Northwest and the applicability to California production.
- Other production: an evaluation of the economics of sweet cherry production in California; orchard systems design; improved harvest efficiency (ie. mechanized harvest/assist); etc.
- Investigation into the application of solar radiation and other contributors to the current chill model for cherry and/or the application and/or optimization of physiological indicators for the application of dormancy breaking agents; investigation into the start time for chill accumulation.
- The reappropriation of accumulated chill hours by use of CIMIS stations for cherry industry online use.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES RELATED TO “POST HARVEST”

For the 2023-24 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 and the market acceptance of alternative strategies.

FULL PROPOSAL GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND REVIEWAL PROCESSES

By no later than Friday, September 30th, please send any full proposal grant applications to Leslie Alfonso, CCB Research Director, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Ste. A. Modesto, CA 95358, or by email to lgalfonso@ucanr.edu.

Please use the attached “**RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**” to properly format your proposal. Full proposals require a statement of the problem to be addressed with proper literature review, intended objectives, plans and procedures, expected outcomes, stated deliverables and a detailed budget with budget justification for each line item.

As discussed above, you are encouraged to interact with industry members when developing your proposal. Please contact the committee’s UC liaison, Kari Arnold (klarnold@ucanr.edu) if you need guidance.

New research proposals will be submitted to the CA Cherry Research Advisory Committee and comments will be provided back to the principal investigator in a timely manner.

Those who submit a new and/or continuing full proposal will be required to provide a proposal overview in Microsoft PowerPoint format to the CCB Research Committee on November 3rd, 2022. If needed, industry/researcher subcommittees can form to assist in project guidance.

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 FOR BOTH NEW AND CONTINUING PROJECTS

Written Report(s)

1. A written project update must be submitted to Leslie Alfonso via email, lgalfonso@ucanr.edu no later than July 25th, 2023.
2. A written, annual report consisting of an executive summary, literature review, accomplished objectives, materials and methods, results and discussion, stated deliverables, and references, must be submitted to Leslie Alfonso via email,

lgalfonso@ucanr.edu by approximately January 5th, 2024. Date subject to change due to scheduling related to the 2024 California Cherry Research Review (CCRR).

3. The PI responsible for the funded project must provide a presentation at the following winter CCRR event, typically in January, for each year that the project is funded. For more information on this, please see the subheading below, California Cherry Research review.
4. Regarding multi-year projects: grant applications must be submitted for each year of the project.
5. Further deliverables include publications, presentations at grower meetings/field days, extension articles, etc.

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 2024. 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.