

AHDB RESEARCH

TEMPORARY HOLD ON NEW *UNSOLICITED* RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The AHDB Strategy 2017-2020 'Inspiring Success' has given a strong signal that we wish to 'up our game' in terms of the outcomes our research can deliver for the benefit of the industry over the next three years. We therefore need to consider our research funding priorities carefully to ensure that we both deliver what the industry needs in line with the strategy, and that the work is delivered in as cost-efficient way as possible.

We are therefore taking the time over the next 4 months to consider carefully exactly where our resources are best deployed to gain maximum benefit for the industry for research work that will start after 1 April 2018. This means that with immediate effect, we will not be considering any new, unsolicited/reactive research proposals for work scheduled to start after 1 April 2018. We already have a full work programme in place for 2017/18.

We therefore request that contractors do not submit any new unsolicited proposals until our review has been completed, which will be by the end of July 2017. We may issue calls for work during the period April – July 2017 where these are already planned into our work programme. Any proposals already in our system will continue to be processed as usual.

Where interested parties wish to contribute *general* ideas on priorities that address specific activities in the strategy, please do so as soon as possible by using the appropriate contact below. However, please note that we may use this information to help formulate research calls, so you should *not* submit *detailed* ideas that may compromise your own intellectual property. We are already taking into account the priorities identified through our regular industry contacts via our research committees/panels, and other farmer/grower associations.

We emphasise that this review does not indicate a lack of money for new work starting in 2018/19 – it is simply that at this stage of the strategy cycle, we need to ensure that we take the time to plan how best to build a work programme that delivers against the new AHDB strategy. If you have any queries, please contact one of the following:

AHDB Research Director – Bill Parker (bill.parker@ahdb.org.uk)

Horticulture research – Jon Knight (jon.knight@ahdb.org.uk)

Cereals & oilseeds research – Simon Oxley (simon.oxley@ahdb.org.uk)

Potato research – Mike Storey (mike.storey@ahdb.org.uk)

Beef & lamb research – Kim Matthews (kim.matthews@ahdb.org.uk)

Dairy research – Ray Keatinge (ray.keatinge@ahdb.org.uk).

Link to the new AHDB strategy: <http://www.ahdb.org.uk/publications/corporate.aspx>

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