



Mentorship Program Guide

**Livestock Research and Innovation
Corporation.**

July 2025

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Overview

Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC) is a not-for-profit organization supported by Ontario's livestock organizations and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. LRIC's mission is to *create a robust future for the livestock value chain*. One way to do this is to help new faculty at the University of Guelph become quickly and positively connected to the livestock industry. To help meet this objective, LRIC offers early career faculty and those holding selected graduate program positions the opportunity to take part in our mentorship program.

Innovation requires many things, including sound research rooted in industry needs; effective working relationships between faculty and industry; and effective technology transfer involving many organizations. The key objective of our mentorship program is to quickly build positive working relationships between early career faculty and industry.

The program offers you:

- ✓ Introductions to industry (structure, organizations, research priorities and key individuals)
- ✓ Visit farms and, where biosecurity dictates, farm videos with farmer interaction
- ✓ Introduction to highly successful faculty and an opportunity to learn how they managed their careers to reach that success
- ✓ Opportunity for input to some variation of the program at the beginning and mid-point
- ✓ Assistance in understanding relevant history and current processes and issues
- ✓ Introduction to Alliance (UofG) and industry funding opportunities and processes
- ✓ Exposure to seasoned veterans and reviewers, leading to improved grant writing skills
- ✓ Participation in a GRIP (Getting Research Results into Practice) roundtable
- ✓ An opportunity to develop working relationships with fellow mentees across Institutions Colleges and Departments
- ✓ Ongoing assistance from LRIC in connecting with industry
- ✓ Participants with Faculty Positions the ability to apply for Early Career Research Award

The program requires from you:

- ✓ Time
 - 6 – 3 or 4 hr sessions (to be discussed during the 1st meeting)
 - 2-3 days devoted to farm visits
- ✓ **Full attendance and participation at all sessions is expected**
- ✓ The program is projected to start in October and end the following Spring/Summer
- ✓ Build positive working relationships with industry and with faculty/labs in other colleges
- ✓ Provide program feedback including how goals were/were not met; an assessment of the program; and thoughts on how the program could be improved for future participants

Potential Program Components

Topic	Objectives
Introductions	Program Introduction and Overview LRIC overview and introductions Get to know others in the group Goal discussions – Project Introduction and discussion Objective: opportunities for collaboration in research ideas: build bridges
IRAC and Livestock Innovation	Our view of Innovation System – things to consider – broader research: industry opportunities
Livestock 101	Overview of livestock in Ontario
Alliance Call	Optional session if there is interest in exploring alliance funding opportunities
Industry: Reality, research priorities and funding opportunities Reading/viewing in advance, focus of session is discussion	Introduction to sector organizations, priorities, funding, and sage advice
Beef / Sheep	Farm visits to better understand production and challenges / opportunities
Dairy / Aquaculture	Farm visits to better understand production and challenges / opportunities
Poultry / Swine	Farm visits to better understand production and challenges / opportunities
Fork to Farm	Learn different perspective: consumer driven
Policy and Programs	Understand impact on industry and therefore research needs Ensure knowledge of industry initiatives (e.g. VBP, codes)
Innovation	Hear from several that are deeply involved Explore ideas to improve innovation
Getting Research into Practice (GRIP)	Understanding the farm perspective on innovation opportunities
Communication	Talking to Press/Farmers

Stay in touch with LRIC

Members Report

- Quarterly, two-page, bullet point summary of LRIC initiatives, results and activities for research, innovation and commercialization
- Sent to primary contacts at member organizations, hopefully shared with their Board members
- If you wish to receive email Jean at jhowden@livestockresearch.ca

Annual Report

- Produced for our AGM held annually in June
- Available on our website (https://www.livestockresearch.ca/annual_reports)

Articles prepared for producer magazines

- LRIC hires a contract writer to prepare research related articles for members producer magazines
- If you would like help communicating results of your funded research in your producer magazine/newsletter or in a trade publication, email Jean at jhowden@livestockresearch.ca

Monthly newsletter 'Livestock Innovation'

- LRIC distributes a monthly newsletter, subscription available at: <https://www.livestockresearch.ca/newsletter>
- Includes articles focused on sector-specific, cross-sector and on the horizon

Research Scouts

- LRIC searches out livestock relevant research and sends to an email list of interested people
- If you wish to receive Research Scouts, email Jean at jhowden@livestockresearch.ca

X (formerly) Twitter account

- LRIC has an active account (@LivestockInnov) with about 500 followers

Horizon Series

- LRIC initiative focused on sound introductions to the BIG things facing the Ontario livestock sector:
 - Regenerative agriculture / Livestock and Greenhouse Gas / Antimicrobial Resistance / One Health / Genomics / Getting Research into Practice (GRIP) / Livestock and Water Use / The future of Vaccines / Animal-free Meat, Milk and Eggs
- Brief webinar, along with white paper (paper and webinar recording available at https://www.livestockresearch.ca/white_papers)

Contact Information

There is an application and screening process as participation is limited. . If you are interested, please review the program outline below and if you have questions, contact us.

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