

## **Agricultural Methane Reduction Challenge - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 2024**

### **Sponsor**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

### **Program**

Agricultural Methane Reduction Challenge

### **Description**

Addressing methane emissions from cattle is complex. About 86% of methane emissions in agriculture are released through a biological process called enteric fermentation that takes place in the gut of cattle and other ruminant animals. Therefore, emerging solutions need to be backed by strong scientific evidence to ensure the welfare of the animal and the safety of the product that will be ultimately sold to consumers while accounting for the variability in farm operations. Moreover, there are only a limited number of scientifically validated and economically viable solutions ready for commercialization and/or adoption. There is an urgent need for innovations and breakthroughs.

### **Eligibility**

From farmers to researchers to businesses and more, the Challenge is open to all Canadians looking to advance innovative, scalable, and economically viable practices, processes, and technologies that reduce enteric methane emissions. In order to be eligible to receive prizes, innovators must establish a legal entity (such as a registered business, corporation or not-for-profit organization) capable of entering into binding agreements in Canada. International innovators are encouraged to apply but will be required to establish a Canadian legal entity in order to be eligible to receive funding. In addition, innovators will be required to test, pilot, demonstrate, and deploy their solution in Canada. Underrepresented and marginalized groups in Canadian agriculture — including women, youth, persons with disabilities, racialized persons, visible minorities, 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and official language minority communities are encouraged to apply.

### **Prize**

Up to \$12 million in total will be awarded to semi-finalists, finalists and winners of the Challenge

alongside a host of non-financial supports such as mentorship, advisory and training supports.

Stage	Stage duration	Number of winners	Prize amount
Stage 1A: Concept application	4 months	Up to 20 semi-finalists	\$100K per semi-finalist
Stage 1B: Prototype development	9 months	Up to 20 semi-finalists	\$150K per semi-finalist
Stage 2: Testing and measurement	9 months	Up to 10 finalists	\$500K per finalist
Stage 3: Grow and scale	19 months	Up to 2 winners	\$1M per winner

See the [Agricultural Methane Reduction Challenge Process and Prizes website](#) [1] for additional details.

## Deadlines

If College-level review is required, your College will communicate its earlier internal deadlines.

Type	Date	Notes
External Deadline	Tuesday, February 7, 2023 - 10:59pm	Only applications submitted through the Impact Canada website via the <a href="#">designated Challenge application portal</a> [2] will be accepted. Applications must be submitted no later than February 7, 2024 at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.

## How to Apply

- **Stage 1 – Application Intake & Prototype Development**

*Call for applications: November 2023*

Applicants with an innovative way to reduce enteric methane from cattle are invited to [apply to the Challenge](#) [3]. For the purpose of this Challenge, the cattle sector is limited to the cow-calf, feedlot, and dairy sector.

The deadline to apply is February 7, 2024 at 11:59 pm Pacific Time. Stage 1 is divided into the following two sub-stages.

Stage 1A – Concept Application – Challenge launched on November 14, 2023 and the application intake runs for 3 months. Up to 20 semi-finalists with the most promising concept applications will receive up to \$100,000 each in summer 2024.

Stage 1B – Prototype Development – In spring 2025, up to 20 prizes of \$150,000 will be awarded to all semi-finalists that meet the Stage 1B requirements so they can build their solution and get it ready to test it in an operational environment.

- **Stage 2 – Testing and measurement**

In Spring 2026, up to 10 finalists will be selected to receive up to \$500,000 each to further test and measure the impact of their solution in partnership with the end users of the solution, including by testing their solution on-farm.

- **Stage 3 – Grow and scale**

Up to 2 finalists with the most impressive results will each receive up to \$1 million in Winter 2028 and become Challenge Prize winners for the Agricultural Methane Reduction Challenge.

## For More Information

Please see the [Agriculture Methane Reduction Challenge website](#) [4].

Alert Classifications **Category:**

Honours and Awards

**Disciplines:**

Health and Life Sciences

Information and Communications Technology

Physical Sciences and Engineering

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**Source**

**URL:** <https://www.uoguelph.ca/research/alerts/content/agricultural-methane-reduction-challenge-agriculture-and-agri-food-canada-2024>

**Links**

[1] <https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/methanechallenge/process-and-prizes>

[2] <https://impact.canada.ca/challenges/methanechallenge/application>

[3] <https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/methanechallenge/application>

[4] <https://impact.canada.ca/en/challenges/methanechallenge>