

Terms & Conditions

1. Eligibility

The **Royal Agri-Food Innovation Competition** (the “Competition”) is open to individuals, teams, startups, companies, non-profits, post-secondary institutions, researchers, and academic groups.

- Entrants must be legal residents of Canada and aged 18 or older at the time of entry. Those under 18 must have permission from a parent or guardian to participate.
- The Competition welcomes participants from across the agri-food innovation ecosystem, including but not limited to ag-tech, food innovation, sustainability solutions, and digital agriculture.

2. Submission Requirements

- All entries must include either:
 - A short video presentation (maximum 4 minutes), **or**
 - A PowerPoint, Google Slides, or similar presentation

outlining the proposed idea, technology, research, or business model.

- Submissions must clearly demonstrate how the innovation contributes to advancing the agri-food sector in areas such as (but not limited to): artificial intelligence, robotics, precision agriculture, climate resilience, soil health, water conservation, food security, alternative proteins, supply chain innovation, or waste reduction.
- Entries should articulate:
 - The problem being addressed
 - The proposed solution
 - The potential impact and scalability
- Entries must be submitted electronically through the designated online platform by **Wednesday, October 8, 2026**.

3. Prizes

- **1st Place:** \$2,000 CAD
- **2nd Place:** \$500 CAD
- **3rd Place:** \$500 CAD
- All prize amounts are awarded in Canadian dollars and are subject to applicable federal, provincial, and local taxes, which are the sole responsibility of the winners.

4. Finalists & Winner Notification

- Finalists will be notified by email by **mid-October 2026** (exact date to be confirmed).
- Finalists will be invited to present their innovation live at the **RBC Growth Hub Stage** during the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair on **Saturday, November 7, 2026**.
- Winners will be announced onsite at The Royal, including a ceremonial cheque presentation. Prize payments will be issued within three (3) weeks following the conclusion of the Fair.
- If a selected finalist or winner cannot be contacted, fails to respond within seven (7) days, or does not comply with these Terms & Conditions, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair reserves the right to disqualify the entrant and select an alternate.

5. Judging & Feedback

- Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges from industry, academia, and the agri-food sector.
- Judging criteria will include:
 - Innovation (40%)
 - Impact (30%)
 - Feasibility (20%)
 - Presentation (10%)
- Finalists will receive **constructive feedback and insights from judges**, providing valuable guidance to help further develop and refine their ideas.

6. General Conditions

- By entering, participants agree to abide by these Terms & Conditions and accept that all decisions of the judges are final and binding.
- Participants grant the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair the right to use their name, organization name, idea name, likeness, and submitted materials for promotional and educational purposes without additional compensation.
- Entrants may be photographed, filmed, or interviewed in connection with the Competition and the Fair. Participation in these activities is voluntary, and entrants may opt out by notifying event organizers.

7. Limitation of Liability

- The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is not responsible for technical issues, submission errors, or other circumstances beyond its control that may affect participation or outcomes.
- By entering, participants agree to release and hold harmless the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and its affiliates, partners, and agencies from any claims arising from participation in the Competition or the acceptance and use of any prize.

8. Privacy

- Personal information collected will be used solely for the administration of the Competition and in accordance with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair's Privacy Policy.

9. Governing Law

- The Competition and these Terms & Conditions are governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.