

CPRC Update

CPRC FUNDING PROGRAM RETURNS TO NORMAL IN 2014

The Canadian Poultry Research Council dedicated its 2013 funding budget, plus additional funds from our Member Organizations, to our application under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Science Cluster section of the AgriInnovation Program (AIP). CPRC is returning to its practice of issuing annual calls for Letters of Intent (LOI) in 2014 with a call in early April.

CPRC issues calls for LOIs under two of its five main priority areas each year:

1. Avian Gut Microbiology
2. Environment
3. Food Safety & Poultry Health
4. Novel Feedstuffs
5. Poultry Welfare & Behaviour

These priority areas are well-aligned with those identified in the 2012 document *National Research Strategy for Canada's Poultry Sector* (available on the Research section of the CPRC website www.cprc.ca). CPRC prepared the Strategy based on a number of workshops, conferences, discussions with industry members, other industry stakeholders and input from its member organizations.

1. **Avian Gut Microbiology:** The Avian Microbiology Network (AviMicroNet) is a communication network of researchers designed to encourage the investigation of the impact of gut microflora on the nutrition, feed conversion, pathogen carriage, and health of poultry in an antimicrobial-free environment. This effort has been put forth in response to growing pressures to reduce, or possibly eliminate, antimicrobial drugs from animal feeds.
2. **Environment:** The CPRC initiated a research program dedicated to environmental issues in the poultry industry. A number of projects have been supported, which touch on a wide variety of areas. These include the prevalence and effect of veterinary pharmaceutical residues in the environment, the direct injection of poultry litter on agricultural land, the environmental implications of phosphorus and calcium flows in poultry production, workplace exposure to environmental contaminants in commercial poultry barns, useful products from spent hens, and emissions from poultry operations.
3. **Food Safety and Poultry Health:** This program covers a wide range of topics with potentially far-reaching implications for the sector. Topics include: immunization of broiler chickens against necrotic enteritis, understanding the biology of avian influenza virus and finding better ways to control it, novel multivalent vaccines for avian health, and new ways to control enteric pathogens.
4. **Poultry Welfare and Behaviour:** Research within this program covers such topics as: impact of ammonia on the welfare of laying hens, improving transport conditions for broilers, alternative methods of euthanizing turkeys, effects of lighting programs on leg weakness in broilers, improving welfare for beak trimmed hens, maintaining leg and bone structure in turkeys, implications of toe-trimming turkeys, alternative feeding strategies for broiler breeders, and the impact of daylength on turkey welfare and productivity.
5. **Novel feedstuffs:** There is an emerging need for research on the use of feedstuffs alternative to current grains, prices of which are anticipated to remain high. Research is underway relating to:

potential animal health benefits of feeding distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), nutritive value of cold-pressed meals from various grain sources, and the economic and nutritive impact of processing alternative ingredients in turkey diets.

The CPRC also funds projects that are of significance to the Canadian poultry industry, but may not fit into the broad research programs listed above. Researchers may apply for funding for this category of research at any time throughout the year according to the CPRC policy on *ad hoc* proposals (see Research section of the CPRC website).

CPRC's Board of Directors will decide on the two categories for the 2014 call for LOIs at its March Board meeting and the call will be issued early in April with a submission date in early June.

For more details on any CPRC activities, please contact The Canadian Poultry Research Council, 350 Sparks Street, Suite 1007, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S8, phone: (613) 566-5916, fax: (613) 241-5999, email: info@cp-rc.ca, or visit us at www.cp-rc.ca.

The membership of the CPRC consists of Chicken Farmers of Canada, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, Turkey Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada and the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors' Council. CPRC's mission is to address its members' needs through dynamic leadership in the creation and implementation of programs for poultry research in Canada, which may also include societal concerns.