



Call for Letters of Intent

April 2007

The Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC) and its member organizations are currently calling for Letters of Intent (LOIs) in the following priority areas. Approval of applications in this competition will be subject to availability of funds.

Please use the attached LOI form for your submission.

1. AVIAN GUT MICROBIOLOGY

There is increasing pressure worldwide to reduce and perhaps eventually eliminate the use of antimicrobial drugs in farm animal feeds. Four projects with CPRC support are already underway as part of the Avian Microbiology Network (AviMicroNet) which is directed towards a better understanding of the effects of antibiotics on microbes in the avian gut. These projects are working towards the following:

- understanding the effects of antibiotic use on population changes and gene expression in chicken gut microflora, and the subsequent effects that these changes have on the bird's immune system
- determining why certain strains of the bacterium *Clostridium perfringens* cause necrotic enteritis in birds, while others do not; finding the reasons behind these differences will provide insights into the epidemiology of the disease which may, in turn, lead to better control measures
- characterizing polysaccharide hydrolysis products from carbohydrase enzymes to determine their effect on gut microflora *in vitro* and *in vivo*
- understanding how *Campylobacter jejuni* colonizes the gut of the bird, insights into which may lead to development of a vaccine or other control strategy for this bacterium

The current Call for LOIs is intended to attract research proposals that build on work already underway under the AviMicroNet and to perhaps expand the scope of this research towards novel alternatives to antimicrobials.

2. NOVEL FEEDSTUFFS

There is an emerging need for research on the use of feedstuffs alternative to current grains (especially corn), which are anticipated to increase in price due to demands from the energy sector. The CPRC is interested in research towards alternative ingredients in rations that will meet the nutritional needs of commercial poultry.

Deadline

The deadline for all Letters of Intent is 5:00 pm on **June 29, 2007**. Please submit an electronic copy to info@cp-rc.ca. In addition to the electronic copy, an original, signed hard copy should be sent to:

Canadian Poultry Research Council
483 Arkell Rd
Guelph, ON N1H 6H8

Notes for applicants

After considering input from the CPRC Scientific Advisory Committee, as well as current budget limitations, the CPRC Directors have decided to announce annual Calls for Letters of Intent that pertain to 2 research priority areas at a time. The priority areas for the next 3 calls are as follows:

Date of Call	Priority areas
April 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avian Gut Microbiology ▪ Novel Feedstuffs
April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environment ▪ Poultry Health & Disease
April 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poultry Welfare & Behaviour ▪ Food Safety & Quality

With input from academe, government and industry, the CPRC will continually review its research priority list and, if necessary, adjust it to reflect existing and emerging issues of importance to its members. Provided they remain of high importance, individual priority areas will be the subject of future Calls at regular intervals so as to promote continuity in existing research programs.

The CPRC supports poultry research in Canada and the training of highly qualified people for Canada's poultry sector. Its primary function is that of a matching fund granting agency and, as such, will work with applicants to secure matching funds from partners.

The CPRC Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) will review all LOIs. It will make recommendations to the CPRC Directors. All applicants will be informed if the CPRC will support their application.

If approved for CPRC support, NSERC-eligible applicants will be instructed to submit applications to NSERC-CRD program through their respective university Research Grants Offices, with all signatures as required by NSERC. AAFC scientists will be instructed to submit their approved applications to the MII program through the appropriate AAFC channels.

Funds for this granting program will be limited; applicants should limit their requests from CPRC to a maximum of \$20,000 per year. Funds from other sources are welcome. Larger budgets should be discussed with the CPRC office before submitting an application for evaluation.

Collaboration among scientists and institutions is encouraged and will be a consideration during the review process.

Inquiries regarding the CPRC or its member's component of this call for LOIs should be directed to Mr. Gord Speksnijder at the CPRC office. Questions regarding the NSERC component should be directed to Doris Braslins at doris.braslins@nserc.ca and copied to Mr. Speksnijder at gords@cp-rc.ca.