



Request for Proposals for:

Understanding the impact of Darkling beetles on chicken broiler and turkey farms in Canada

Applications submitted under this Request for Proposal (RFP) process must pertain directly to the specific topic listed below.

Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC), in collaboration with Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC) are seeking high quality proposals to carry out an applied research project related to the darkling beetle (*Alphitobius diaperinus*), a common pest in poultry operations.

CFC's long-term commitment to research and innovation is one of the keys to the success of the chicken industry in Canada. Research allows our industry to grow as we look for ways to make our quality product even better and respond to evolving consumer preferences. TFC is committed to funding research to keep pace with changes on-farm and in the marketplace, maintain consumer expectations, and provide a high-quality and healthy product to Canadians.

Each year, researchers are invited to submit applications for an RFP for research in areas of particular interest to the poultry industry, and this year, CFC is partnering with TFC. The deadline for submission of proposal is **December 1, 2023**.

1. Request for Proposal

- a) **Specific topic:** *Investigating the impact of Darkling beetles on Canadian broiler and turkey farms and assessing the effectiveness of different control methods (e.g., common commercial pesticides, biopesticides, other) on their prevalence.*

- b) **Background:** Darkling beetles cause many challenges when found on farm. They are known vectors of poultry specific pathogens and foodborne pathogens (e.g., Newcastle disease, avian influenza, pathogenic *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, histomoniasis, parasites such as coccidiosis and round worm, etc.), they cause structural damage to poultry barns, increasing energy costs, and decreasing flock performance as they live in and around feed lines/pans and are consumed first by chicks/poults. As such, it is essential to understand better the source of these pests to effectively manage and control their impact in chicken and turkey farms.

Several control measures are available; chemical options (pesticides/insecticides) are most commonly used, which has led to increasing resistance. Therefore, alternative methods to darkling beetle control are needed, especially since once established on farm, eliminating darkling beetles is extremely difficult.



2. Budget

This project funding is separate to that provided by the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC).

- CFC's contribution to the proposal will be limited to a maximum of \$50,000.
- TFC's contribution is limited to \$10,000.
- Total funding available is **\$60,000**. Industry dollars, whether from CFC, TFC or other industry sources, must be matched with non-industry dollars at a ratio of at least 1:1. Funding ratios with higher contributions from non-industry sources are preferred.

3. Letter of Intent and Review Process

CFC and TFC are requesting that interested applicants follow the submission guidelines as detailed in **Appendix A**. Complete proposals must be received by **December 01, 2023**.

While this is a separate RFP, CFC & TFC will be using the same review process as is currently used by CPRC. CPRC will also be acting as the administrator for this project on behalf of CFC & TFC, and all contracts and reporting mechanisms will be as per CPRC protocols and policies. The successful proposal will be selected on overall value and will be at the discretion of the CFC & TFC Board of Directors.

Issuance of this RFP, your preparation and submission of a response, and the subsequent receipt and evaluation of your response by CFC & TFC do not commit CFC & TFC to award a contract to any offer even if all of the requirements stated in the RFP are met. CFC & TFC reserves the right to make no selection and enter into no agreement as a result of this RFP. Only the execution of a written agreement between CPRC and a research provider will obligate CFC & TFC in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in such agreement. Time and resources used to prepare a submission are ineligible expenses under the project.

4. RFP Inquiries and Submissions

Inquiries to this RFP should be directed to:

Jean Lavallée
Director of Animal Care & Research
Chicken Farmers of Canada
613-566-5903
jlavallee@chicken.ca

Submissions should be provided directly to CPRC:

Caroline Wilson
Executive Director
Canadian Poultry Research Council
613-714-4599
info@cp-rc.ca