



Request for Proposal(s)

- a) **Development of a novel and efficacious vaccine strategy for the prevention of Avian Pathogenic *E.coli* infection**

- b) **Investigating the source of Darkling beetles on Canadian broiler and turkey farms and determining the impact of common commercial pesticides (Tempo or others) vs balEnce™ (a biopesticide) on their prevalence.**

Chicken Farmers of Canada's (CFC) 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.

Each year, CFC invites researchers to submit an application for a Request for Proposal (RFP) for research in areas of particular interest to the chicken industry. This year CFC is partnering with Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC) for one of the RFPs. 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.

Applications for this year's RFP are to be received by **May 27th, 2022**.

1. Request for Proposal

- a) **Topic:** Development of a novel and efficacious vaccine strategy for the prevention of avian pathogenic *E.coli* infection

Background: Infection from avian pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (APEC), a causal agent of disease and mortality in poultry with significant economic losses for the industry, is typically controlled by antibiotic therapy. This increasing use of antibiotics has led to an increase in antimicrobial resistant strains of *E.coli*. Given that the Canadian poultry industry eliminated the preventative use of category I and II antimicrobials and is reviewing options to reduce the use of category III antimicrobials in the next few years; alternative strategies to control APEC are warranted; especially those that are readily available in Canada and are effective against poultry specific pathogens and/or foodborne pathogens.



- b) **Topic:** Investigating the source of Darkling beetles on Canadian broiler and turkey farms and determining the impact of common commercial pesticides (Tempo or others) vs balEnce™ (a biopesticide) on their prevalence.

Background: Darkling beetles cause many challenges when found on farm. They are known vectors of poultry specific pathogens as well as 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; as well as 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 determine the source of these pests to effectively manage its prevalence on farm. While several control options exist, chemicals (i.e., 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 per project, with TFC contributing an additional \$10,000 for research on darkling beetles, for a total of \$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. Higher leverage ratios are preferred.

3. Letter of Intent and Review Process

CFC and TFC are requesting that interested applicants follow the submission guidelines as detailed in the Canadian Poultry Research Council's Call for Letters of Intent (dated December 2021). All proposals must be received complete no later than **May 27th, 2022**.

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 and 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 and 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 do not commit CFC to award a contract to any offer even if all of the requirements stated in the RFP are met. CFC 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 CFC and a research provider will obligate CFC in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in such agreement.



4. RFP Inquiries and Submissions

Inquiries to this request for proposal should be directed towards:

Christine Power
Director of Animal Care & Sustainability
Chicken Farmers of Canada
T: 613-566-5903
E: cpower@chicken.ca

Submissions should be provided directly to the Canadian Poultry Research Council:

Bruce Roberts
Executive Director
Canadian Poultry Research Council
225 Metcalf Street, Suite 314
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1P9
T: 613-714-4599 E: info@cp-rc.ca