



Call for Letters of Intent

March 2009

The Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC) and its member organizations are currently calling for Letters of Intent (LOIs) in the following priority areas.

Please use the attached LOI form for your submission. 

1. POULTRY WELFARE & BEHAVIOUR

The CPRC is requesting Letters of Intent from those researchers who wish to enhance the ability of Canada's poultry industry to face current issues relating to poultry welfare and behaviour. Issues of importance include, but are not limited to:

- ***Euthanasia***
 - mass depopulation during emergencies
 - routine depopulation (especially disposal of end-of-cycle layers, unwanted male chicks)
 - determining humane endpoints for sick or injured birds and appropriate techniques to euthanize
- ***Transportation***
 - humane conditions, transit time
 - catching and loading/unloading techniques
 - education training
- ***Morphological alterations (beak trimming, toe trimming, snooding etc.)***
 - best practices/methods
 - short and long term effects
- ***Relationship between productivity and bird welfare***
 - consequences of growing broilers too rapidly
 - impact of breast growth on leg strength in turkeys
 - effect of stocking density
- ***Effect of housing environment***
 - air quality and temperature
 - lighting
 - litter quality
 - use of cages for layers
- ***Aggression in male broiler breeders***
- ***Feed restriction in broiler breeders***
- ***Studies on pain, fear, frustration and emotional states***
- ***Economic impact of improving poultry welfare***
- ***Skeletal integrity/bone strength and calcium metabolism in layers***
- ***Relationship of micronutrient absorption/requirements to leg conformation in turkeys***

2. FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY – IMPACT OF POULTRY HEALTH & DISEASE

The CPRC is also requesting Letters of Intent from those researchers who wish to enhance the ability of Canada's poultry industry to face current issues relating to food safety and quality, especially with respect to the impact of poultry health and disease. Issues of importance include, but are not limited to:

- ***New and rapid diagnostic testing for food-borne bacteria (on-farm and in product)***
- ***Ability to eradicate pathogens (particularly in breeder and layer flocks)***
- ***Development of new vaccines and treatments for disease***
- ***Creation of markers to differentiate birds exposed to a disease from those that have developed antibodies to a vaccine***
- ***Identify methods of disease transmission***
- ***Preparedness for disease outbreaks (including bird depopulation and disposal)***
- ***Effects of toxins/microorganisms on bird and human health***

NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

Please read the instructions carefully. This year, the funding partner of first choice will be Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through its *Growing Forward* policy framework, rather than the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Collaborative Research & Development (CRD) program. By collaborating through *Growing Forward*, industry funds may be leveraged at ratios of 7:1 or more.

The CPRC supports poultry research in Canada and the training of highly qualified people for Canada's poultry sector.

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

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.

Deadline

The deadline for all Letters of Intent is midnight on **May 4, 2009**. Please submit an electronic copy to info@cp-rc.ca. Note that the deadline for receipt of LOIs has been moved up this year to better position us to collaborate with AAFC. In addition to the electronic copy, an original, signed hard copy should be sent to:

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

Funding partners

CPRC's primary function is that of a matching fund granting agency and, as such, will work with applicants to secure matching funds from partners. Financial support from CPRC is contingent on securing matching funds from other partners. The partner of first choice in years past has been the NSERC-CRD program. This year, new opportunities have emerged from AAFC's *Growing Forward* framework agreement. This program will therefore be our partner of first choice for the 2009 competition. Further information is provided below.

1. **Growing Forward**

Details on the *Growing Forward* framework can be found on the AAFC website (click [here](#) or go to www.agr.gc.ca and click on the "Growing Forward" link). The following is an excerpt from that site:

GROWING FORWARD

Growing Forward is a fresh, new approach to creating a profitable and competitive agricultural sector in Canada.

Our vision

A profitable and innovative agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry that seizes opportunities in responding to market demands and contributes to the health and well-being of Canadians.

Our objectives

- *Focusing on building a competitive and innovative sector*
- *Ensuring the sector contributes to society's priorities*
- *Being proactive in managing risks*

Canada's Agriculture Ministers have been working with the sector for the past two years to develop the new policy framework for Growing Forward.

CPRC's efforts will be directed to the first objective: "*Focusing on building a competitive and innovative sector*". LOIs for the 2009 competition should therefore address how the proposed research will enhance the profitability of Canada's poultry sector by building on competitiveness and innovation.

Background:

The Growing Forward program will have funding up to and including the financial year ending March 31, 2013. It will fund industry-led collaboration through 2 streams:

1. National sector **clusters** with up to \$20 million over the period indicated per cluster.
2. Growing Agri-Products (GAP) initiative with **projects** having budgets ranging up to a maximum of \$4.5 million each.

It is in this second stream that the CPRC is planning to participate. Industry funds will be matched to the same degree under GAP as they will be for clusters; a maximum of 9:1. It has been stressed by AAFC that stronger applications will have a larger component of industry funding, so it may be more realistic to plan for matching levels of 7:1.

Process:

Growing Forward is intended to be an industry-driven initiative. The CPRC will therefore submit an application(s) on behalf of Canada's poultry sector. This application(s) will be based, where appropriate, on LOIs received. The plan is that the LOIs will be submitted to CPRC according to its agreed priorities and reviewed through the standard CPRC procedures. Authors of CPRC-approved LOIs will be invited to participate in a GAP application(s). These applications will be submitted by CPRC (the industry partner) to AAFC. CPRC may, through discussions with the applicant(s) of the successful LOIs adjust the scope/budget of any submission and work with successful applicants to form stronger teams for the application to GAP. The CPRC encourages collaboration among scientists when submitting their LOIs. Particularly in this year, applicants are asked to form strong complimentary teams as much as possible. The GAP application(s) will propose a team of researchers address a given research priority(s). These teams of researchers may be all from AAFC, all from university or a combination of both.

Budget:

The working hypothesis is that GAP will match industry dollars (from CPRC and other industry organizations) at a ratio of 7:1. In-kind contributions are not eligible for matching. AAFC anticipates funding will be available for 6 months in 2009 and for 3 additional years to March 31, 2013, by which time the money must be spent - please develop your scope of work and budget for up to a 3.5 year period.

CPRC reserves the right to renegotiate all budgets, scopes of work and teams of researchers when preparing GAP applications.

Please note that if the GAP funding opportunity still exists, applications may also be made pertaining to the 2010 CPRC Call for LOIs (priority areas anticipated to be Avian Gut Microbiology and Environment).

2. NSERC-CRD

For 2009 the priority is to develop submission to develop collaboration with AAFC. However, if a CPRC-approved LOI does not fit the guidelines of GAP, NSERC-eligible applicants will be asked to submit applications to NSERC-CRD program through their respective university Research Grants Offices, with all signatures as required by NSERC.

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

3. Other partners

For 2009 the priority is to develop submission to develop collaboration with AAFC. However, CPRC will also accept applications indicating matching funds from other sources. Industry dollars, whether from CPRC or other industry sources, must be matched with non-industry dollars at a ratio of at least 1:1. Higher leverage ratios are preferred.

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

Research priority areas

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 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poultry Welfare & Behaviour ▪ Food Safety & Quality – Impact of Poultry Health & Disease
April 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avian Gut Microbiology ▪ Environment
April 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poultry Welfare & Behaviour ▪ Food Safety & Quality – Impact of Poultry Health & Disease

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.

Questions?

Inquiries regarding this call for LOIs should be directed to Mr. Gord Speksnijder via email at gords@cp-rc.ca or phone at 289-251-2990.