

Cluster III Announcement by AAFC Honorable Marie-Claude Bibeau

The Honorable Marie-Claude Bibeau, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, , officially announced a five-year \$8.24 million investment to the Canadian Poultry Industry on May 24, 2019 at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (University of Montréal) in St-Hyacinthe, Quebec. The funding is under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, AgriScience Clusters Program and is in addition to an investment of \$3.78M from industry and other levels of government. The CPRC Chair, Helen-Anne Hudson, CPRC Research Coordinator, Caroline Wilson, as well as representatives from all poultry sectors were also present. During her speech, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada declared: *“Our Government is committed to helping Canada’s poultry sector maintain consumer trust and stay on the cutting edge by finding new and innovative solutions to challenges faced by the industry. This funding will play an important part in ensuring that the sector is able to continue to grow sustainably and do more to meet high consumer demand.”*

After the announcement, the Minister, journalists and industry representatives visited the laboratories of the faculty lead by doctoral student Eric Parent where two of the funded research projects of Dr. Martine Boulianne, *A comparative and subtractive reverse vaccinology approach to develop an in ovo vaccine against Clostridium perfringens* and the *Efficacy of new vaccine strategies to protect broiler chickens against necrotic enteritis* are being conducted.

CPRC will coordinate and administer research funding and reporting of 19 research projects , five of which are led by AAFC researchers. The projects reflect the priorities of the industry, governments and Canadian society. A total of 74 individual researchers will be involved in projects across Canada with input from world-wide expertise from foreign scientists.

The 19 research projects are divided in four research themes. Close to half of the projects are investigating antimicrobial stewardship in poultry production. This includes research in vaccines development and efficacy of antimicrobial alternatives. The second theme, poultry health and welfare, includes research that will identify developmental determinants of successful behavioural adaptation, impact of stocking density on performance and welfare of turkey hens and level of dietary phosphorus and calcium in pullets and laying hens to maximise their performance and health. The third theme is on food safety. Researchers are looking at the

development of vaccines to reduce *Campylobacter* colonization in chickens, rationale-based mitigation of *Campylobacter jejuni* strains within the broiler production continuum, bacteriophage intervention during poultry carcass chilling, and packaging to control campylobacter and salmonella contamination. Finally, the fourth theme is comprised of research focusing on sustainability of the Canadian poultry production system such as the evaluation of control strategies to reduce emissions of particulate matter, ammonia and greenhouse gases from poultry operations; assessment of infectious bronchitis virus on egg production and fertility of chickens; and epidermal growth factor to enhance development and maintenance of a functional intestinal tract in poultry.

"Funding for the third poultry science cluster allows the poultry industry to conduct research projects that reflect the priorities of the industry and Canadian consumers. The Canadian poultry farmers are constantly evolving their production practices in response to these priorities which include: the enhancement of the health and welfare of the animals, improving food safety, development of innovations in antimicrobial alternatives and vaccines development, as well as research in preserving the environment and long-term sustainability of the poultry industry in Canada. As part of the cluster, funding will also be used for knowledge and technology transfer to farmers and other poultry value chain members such as input suppliers, processors and the retail component of the industry." Helen Anne Hudson, CPRC Chair.

CPRC, its Board of Directors and member organizations are committed to supporting and enhancing Canada's poultry sector through research and related activities. For more details on these or any other CPRC activities, please contact The Canadian Poultry Research Council, 350 Sparks Street, Suite 1007, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 7S8, phone: [\(613\) 566-5916](tel:6135665916), fax: [\(613\) 241-5999](tel:6132415999), 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.