

January 26, 2021

EFA Call for Letters of Intent

Status: Open

Deadline: April 9, 2021



Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) is pleased to invite applications of research and development in areas that address targeted industry priorities.

EFA will make **up to** \$125,000 available to focus on specific priority areas benefiting Alberta's egg farmers. The targeted priority areas were established in 2019 by farmers in consultation with researchers and value chain partners.

Targeted Research Priorities:

- What are ideal lighting conditions to maximize hen and pullet productivity and welfare?
 - Specifically, this is related to issues such as flickering, managing in alternative housing systems, and using different light spectrums to manage behaviour.
- What management practices reduce dust and what are the impacts of dust on production, bird health, and welfare?
- What factors impact vaccine effectiveness in Alberta?
 - There is interest in both bird and non-bird factors including issues such as proper procedures and water quality
 - How does the environment (ex. dust in loose housing) impact effectiveness?
- What is the prevalence, cause, and impact of emerging layer diseases in Alberta?
 - What is the impact of the shift to more production in alternative housing?
 - What is the impact of strains that are migrating to Western Canada?
 - There is special interest in Shellless Egg Syndrome (SES), Focal Duodenal Necrosis (FDN), and Peritonitis/E.Coli
- What is the impact of extending flock cycles on economics, sustainability, and welfare?
 - Of the strains used in Alberta, which are best suited to longer flock cycles?
 - What is the impact of the Alberta laying hen diet on extending flock cycles?
 - What management practices used in Alberta can best improve the likelihood of success?
- Which genetics and strains of birds are the "best fit" for different alternative housing systems?
 - How do we use genetics to reduce behaviours such as cannibalism, feather pecking, flightiness, and huddling?
- How can nutrition be used to help prevent, mitigate, or alleviate behavior concerns?
- Can we enrich spent hen tissue (offal) with nutrients for harvesting as a human health supplement?
- Characterizing the risks and attributes of Salmonella strains that are prevalent in Alberta:
 - Which ones are relevant (positive or negative) to bird and human health?
 - Which ones are not prevalent elsewhere, and why?

- Understanding the management factors impacting defense against Salmonella colonization

Research proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- How well the project addresses the identified research priorities stated above
- A clear communication and technology transfer plan that will facilitate the uptake of research by the egg industry and communicate results to the public and/or policy makers as appropriate
- Whether the proposed project is new, innovative, pro-active, and advances the current status (or an explicit explanation of how the project fits into a larger research program)
- Scientific merit
- Potential for impact on industry practices, productivity, sustainability, or the egg market

All proposals submitted must follow the guidelines outlined in the *Instructions & Guidelines for Submitting a Letter of Intent & Research Proposal* document, posted on the EFA website at <https://eggs.ab.ca/industry/research-development/>

Deadline for submission is **April 9, 2021**

PLEASE NOTE: It is requested applicants submitting proposals to EFA's call NOT submit the same LOI to the Ag Funding Consortium. Projects submitted to EFA's Call for Proposals will be shared with Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) for leveraging opportunities. However, if the project requires funding over \$50,000 and you have not already applied to other funders or secured additional funding, we request that you submit the project to the Ag Funding Consortium in lieu of EFA's Call for Proposals.