



Request for Proposals (2x)

Chicken Farmers of Canada is seeking high quality proposals to carry out research projects addressing the following two areas:

- 1. VALIDATION OF NEW ACCEPTABLE EUTHANASIA DEVICES FOR BROILER CHICKS**
- 2. MANAGING THE BROILER FLOCK TO MINIMIZE INCIDENCE OF BREAST MYOPATHIES**

Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) is a national farmer-run organization funded through levies that farmers pay according to the amount of chicken marketed. CFC's main responsibility is to represent the interests of our ~2800 chicken farmers and the Canadian chicken industry and to guarantee that Canada produces the right amount of fresh, safe, high-quality chicken to meet consumer needs.

CFC is committed to promoting chicken health and welfare and recognizes that scientific research plays a crucial role in advancing the health, safety, and overall well-being of chicken. By supporting and funding scientific studies, CFC aims to foster innovations that improve animal care practices, enhance farming sustainability, and ensure Canadian farmers are producing safe and healthy chicken.

Emphasizing the importance of evidence-based practices, CFC advocates for research that bridges the gap between ethical responsibility and scientific progress, ultimately leading to better outcomes for animals, farmers, and society as a whole. Through on-farm programs such as the animal care program, the food safety program, biosecurity initiatives, and research advancement, CFC works closely with government partners and industry stakeholders to keep the industry innovative and responsive.

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. Each year, researchers are invited to submit applications in response to RFPs for research in areas of particular interest to the chicken industry.



Applications submitted under these Requests for Proposals (RFPs) must pertain directly to one of the two specific topics listed below.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **December 12, 2025**.

1. Research Topics:

1. VALIDATION OF NEW ACCEPTABLE EUTHANASIA DEVICES FOR BROILER CHICKS

The euthanasia of broiler chicks to alleviate pain and suffering is a critical component of responsible poultry management and animal welfare. Current approved methods, while effective, may present challenges related to practicality, scalability, operator fatigue, or public perception. As animal welfare standards continue to evolve, and societal expectations for ethical treatment of animals increase, there is a pressing need to develop new, acceptable euthanasia devices that are humane, efficient, user-friendly, and aligned with industry and regulatory requirements. This research will support the development and validation of novel technologies/tools or refinements to existing methods especially for younger and smaller chicks that can be readily adopted on-farm, ensuring that producers continue to uphold CFC's [Animal Care Program](#) standards for acceptable euthanasia methods, based on the National Farm Animal Care Council [Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys](#).

2. MANAGING THE BROILER FLOCK TO MINIMIZE INCIDENCE OF BREAST MYOPATHIES

Breast myopathies such as woody breast, white striping, and spaghetti meat are increasingly prevalent in broiler production and pose significant challenges to animal welfare, meat quality, and economic sustainability. These muscle disorders not only affect consumer perception and marketability of poultry products but also lead to increased processing costs and product downgrades, impacting the entire value chain. Despite growing awareness, there remains a gap in understanding how flock management practices influence the development of these myopathies. A targeted research initiative aimed at identifying effective, practical flock management strategies—such as adjustments in nutrition, stocking density, genetics, growth rate modulation, and environmental conditions—could provide the industry with science-based recommendations to mitigate this issue. This research is essential to support producers in improving bird health and welfare while maintaining production efficiency and meeting consumer expectations for high-quality poultry products.



2. Budget

Funds for these projects are separate to those provided by the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC).

- CFC's contribution to the proposal will be limited to a maximum of **\$60,000**.
- Industry dollars, whether from CFC 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 is requesting that interested applicants follow the submission guidelines as detailed in **Appendix A**. Complete proposals must be received by **December 12, 2025**.

CFC will be using the same review process as is currently used by CPRC. CPRC will also be acting as the administrator for these projects on behalf of CFC, and all contracts and reporting mechanisms will be as per CPRC protocols and policies.

The successful proposals will be selected on overall value and will be at the discretion of the CFC Board of Directors. Issuance of these RFPs, 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 requirements stated in the RFPs are met. CFC reserves the right to make no selection and enter into no agreement as a result of these RFPs. Only the execution of a written agreement between CPRC and a research provider will obligate CFC 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. Ethical Merit

The successful applicant will have to confirm that the ethical merit of their proposed research activities has been reviewed and approved by a recognized institutional animal care committee before any funds are disbursed.

5. Indirect Costs

CFC [has a policy](#) on indirect costs research funding applicants can charge on their projects. The policy defines the nature and maximum amounts of these costs.



6. RFP Inquiries and Submissions

Inquiries to these RFPs should be directed to:	Submissions should be provided directly to:
Jean Lavallée Director of Animal Care & Research Chicken Farmers of Canada 902-628-7981 jlavallee@chicken.ca	Caroline Wilson Executive Director Canadian Poultry Research Council 613-714-4599 info@cp-rc.ca