

## **Board Research Initiative Request for Proposals**

### **2022 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreak**

#### **Background**

The first 2021/2022 detection of Eurasian strain (EA) highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in North America occurred in December 2021 in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Subsequently, HPAI EA H5 and EA H5N1 viruses have been confirmed in wild birds, backyard flocks, and commercial poultry facilities in United States leading to the depopulation of millions of birds and economic distress. Although research provided answers to many issues following the 2014-2015 HPAI outbreak, there are additional questions that need to be investigated.

#### **Research Questions and Focus**

- Develop methods to effectively reduce viral shedding from houses affected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) prior to and after depopulation.
- Develop new methods to quickly and humanely depopulate caged layers, broilers and turkeys following an HPAI infection.
- Evaluate the risks of virus spread during mortality pick-up and transportation from one site to another.
- What effect, if any, does plowing of land around previously HPAI infected poultry houses have on lateral transmission of virus?
- Develop methods to evaluate risk of HPAI infection from various predictors, such as wild bird sampling and weather conditions.
- Evaluate improvements to biosecurity protocols, such as barn entry methods, to reduce the introduction of HPAI virus to a flock.

#### **Proposal Submission**

Researchers should submit only a maximum two-page pre-proposal summary that describes the parts of the objectives they wish to address and what they propose to do. A title, the researcher's name, affiliation, and email address should be included in the pre-proposal. Details of procedures or specifics of the budget should not be included in the pre-proposal submission. Pre-proposals should be submitted in Microsoft Word format to [research@uspoultry.org](mailto:research@uspoultry.org).

#### **DEADLINE FOR PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION IS NOVEMBER 1, 2022.**

The outcome of the pre-proposal review will be one of three responses from USPOULTRY:

- Send a full research proposal for consideration.
- Please make specific modifications in what you are proposing and send a full proposal.
- Do not send a full research proposal.

Full proposals will follow established USPOULTRY guidelines as seen at [www.uspoultry.org](http://www.uspoultry.org). Funds can be used for graduate students, technicians, research supplies, and work and meeting travel. Funds cannot be used for professional (faculty or postdoc) salaries or equipment purchase. Up to 15% overhead is allowed. No budget, including overhead, may exceed \$125,000.