

Board Research Initiative Request for Proposals

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Background

There are thousands of cases in commercial poultry and backyard flocks since the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak began in early February of 2022, resulting in the loss of millions of birds. The H5N1 strain has been found in domestic and backyard flocks in forty-eight states, impacting farmers and all communities. Further, the virus has been transmitted to commercial dairy cattle and there are several human infections as well. Experiences in the previous HPAI outbreak allowed for a better understanding of the virus and many advancements to biosecurity and improvement to the response to the disease. The industry is still faced with key questions in biosecurity, depopulation, disposal, and repopulation. A greater understanding of how to best mitigate virus introduction to commercial facilities, reduce viral spread, and improve response that will assist the industry in reducing the impact of HPAI on the industry in both the current outbreak and potential future outbreaks.

Research Areas

1. Model and rank the epi risks associated with HPAI infections in poultry flocks.
 - a. Examine the epidemiological link between cattle and poultry operations.
2. Investigate enhanced biosecurity measures and compliance to prevent the introduction and/or spread of HPAI.
3. What are the proper PPE procedures that should be adhered to during an HPAI event?
4. Identify methods to reduce viral shedding that are not related to vaccination.

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 electronically at: <https://www.uspoultry.org/programs/research/>.

This RFP is for one year projects only

DEADLINE FOR PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION IS NOVEMBER 1, 2024.

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 to 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. 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.