

For Immediate Release

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

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USPOULTRY Accepting Board Research Initiative Preproposals on Further Understanding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation are accepting research preproposals from colleges, universities and research facilities through Nov. 1, on further understanding highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

Since the HPAI outbreak began in early February 2022, thousands of cases have been reported in both commercial poultry and backyard flocks, leading to the loss of millions of birds. The H5N1 strain has affected domestic and backyard flocks across 48 states, impacting farmers and communities nationwide. Additionally, the virus has been transmitted to commercial dairy cattle, and several human infections have been reported.

While previous HPAI outbreaks have enhanced understanding of the virus and led to significant advancements in biosecurity and disease response protocols, key questions remain regarding biosecurity, depopulation, disposal and repopulation. This initiative aims to deepen understanding of how to prevent HPAI's introduction to commercial facilities, reduce spread, and improve response strategies. The goal is to assist the industry in minimizing the impact of HPAI during the current outbreak and in preparing for potential future occurrences.

The research will involve examining the epidemiological link between cattle and poultry operations, investigating enhanced biosecurity measures and compliance to prevent the introduction and/or spread of HPAI, and identifying methods to reduce viral shedding that are not related to vaccination. Additionally, the research aims to identify the proper personal protective equipment procedures that should be adhered to during an HPAI event.

On Oct. 3 at 1:30 p.m. ET, the USPOULTRY Foundation Research Advisory Committee (FRAC) will host a Zoom webinar to provide an overview of the request for proposals (RFPs) related to this topic and two other Board Research Initiative topics as well as the process for submitting a preproposal. The webinar is free and open to all researchers interested in learning more about the RFPs for the three topics. The webinar will provide an opportunity to ask specific questions to the FRAC, and it will be recorded and made available afterward. The link can be accessed [here](#).

Visit the USPOULTRY [website](#) for complete instructions to submit a preproposal.

About USPOULTRY

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the All Feather Association progressively serving its poultry and egg members through research, education, communications and technical services. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Georgia.

About USPOULTRY Foundation

The USPOULTRY Foundation's mission is to support the recruitment and training of the brightest students, seek and fund scientific research, foster student scientists and promote careers in the poultry and egg industry.