Egg Industry Center

2026 Research Request for Pre-proposals

The need for scientific solutions and innovation in the egg industry continues to grow. As such, the Egg Industry Center's Request for Pre-Proposals aims to identify research projects that will fill gaps in knowledge and make progress toward solving contemporary issues in egg production.

This year, EIC's producer-led research committee has identified three high-priority topic areas for which we request pre-proposals. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit pre-proposals that fit within the following high-priority topic areas.

High-Priority Topics:

- Dust mitigation strategies for cage-free housing specific to new technologies or improved management and control of current industry ventilation systems.
- Design of BMPs for whole house nitrogen depopulation.
- Biological proof that commercial eggshells are not an environmental contaminate, or novel ways to make use of eggshells in an environmentally acceptable manner.
- Investigation across various commercial laying hen genetic strains for the impact and role of lighting in Cage-free environments including impacts of lighting source, type, color and level to achieve optimum production parameters focused on body weight gain for pullets, feather retention and reduction of floor eggs or feather pecking in laying hen flocks.
- Development/Evaluation of approaches to reduce/ultimately eliminate *Ascaridia galli* from commercial poultry flocks and their environment with emphasis on practical environmental control through elimination of roundworm eggs or interruption of flock-to-flock transmission.
- Determination of potential changes in *Salmonella enteritis*, via whole genome sequencing, based on positive farm samples from past outbreaks.

Successful proposals will be directly applicable to current industry challenges. Limited funding is available; thus, projects that leverage EIC funds are encouraged, but not required. Typical award sizes range between $50k to $100k. Note that EIC does not pay indirect costs.

Submission, Deadline, Evaluation, & Contact

Pre-proposals must be submitted via email to mpersia@iastate.edu by **EOD Friday, December 4, 2026.** Pre-proposals will be evaluated for research relevance to industry, scientific merit, potential impact, appropriateness of timeline, proposed budget, and adherence to required pre-proposal format outlined in this call. Final decisions for funding will be decided by the EIC Board of Directors Research Committee. Invitations for full proposals will be made by mid-Jan 2027, with a due date of mid-February 2027. Anticipated project start dates should be planned as Sept. 2027.

Required Pre-proposal Content:

Pre-proposals will be submitted via email to mpersia@iastate.edu. Pre-proposals must be in word and fit on one page using the below format:

- List classification from one of the following high-priority topic categories: Dust Mitigation, Nitrogen Depopulation, Eggshells, Lighting, Roundworms, or Salmonella
- A descriptive title of the project (limit 100 words)
- Principal Investigator first name, last name, organizational affiliation, phone number, and e-mail and co-investigators with their organizational affiliations
- Estimated project duration (in months)
- Total approximate funds requested (*Note: EIC does not fund indirect or overhead cost*)
- Statement of the issue (600 characters)
- Project objectives (600 characters)
- Methodology (600 characters)
- Expected outcomes and outputs (600 characters)
- Stakeholder value statement (600 characters)
- If applicable, a statement regarding plans for matching funds

Separate from the one-page pre-proposal, send a one-page CV for the Principal Investigator.

For questions contact: Dr. Mike Persia, Egg Industry Center; 515.294.8625; mpersia@iastate.edu.