

# Egg Industry Center

## 2024 Research Request for Pre-proposals



The needs for scientific assessments of the egg industry continue to grow, and innovations are needed to navigate the cage-free housing trend and provide sustainably produced, safe, and affordable eggs.

The Egg Industry Center's 2024 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 advisory board has identified three high priority topic areas for which we request pre-proposals. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit pre-proposals that fit within these high priority topic areas; however, EIC will consider pre-proposals outside these topic areas for which the applicants have made a strong case for funding. General topic areas that may be considered include but are not limited to the following: bird health and disease, bird welfare (behavior), nutrition, sustainability and environmental stewardship (e.g., manure management; air quality), precision flock management, egg safety and quality, and value-added processing and utilization.

### High Priority Topics:

- Determination of the optimal light intensity, spectrum, photo period for cage-free pullet rearing that promotes positive welfare and productivity.
- Explore novel solutions to key industry diseases, with particular emphasis on False Layer Syndrome, Infectious Coryza, and Infectious Bronchitis.
- Determine nutritional strategies to improve net case weights from cage-free laying hens.

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.

### **Required Pre-proposal Content**

Pre-proposals will be submitted via an online form available at: <https://forms.office.com/r/4XRqxYf0r6>

***No email submissions will be accepted!***

- Topic category
- A descriptive title of the project
- Principal Investigator, affiliation, phone number, and e-mail
- Co-investigators
- Estimated project duration (in months)
- Total approximate funds requested (*Note: EIC does not fund indirect or overhead cost*)
- Statement of the issue
- Project objectives
- Methodology
- Expected outcomes and outputs
- Stakeholder value statement
- Statement regarding any secured or plans for matching funds

### **Submission, Deadline, Evaluation, & Contact**

Pre-proposals must be submitted via [online form](#) by **EOD Friday, December 20, 2024**. Pre-proposals will be evaluated for research relevance to industry, scientific merit, potential impact, appropriateness of timeline, and proposed budget. Final decisions for funding will be decided by the EIC Board of Directors. Invitations for full proposals will be made by mid-Jan 2025, with a due date of mid-February 2025. Anticipated project start dates should be August 2025.

For questions contact: Dr. Brett Ramirez, Egg Industry Center  
Phone: 515 294 0468; email: [bramirez@iastate.edu](mailto:bramirez@iastate.edu)