

Research at Egg Farmers of Ontario

Each year, Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) invests significantly in research that supports improvements in the egg industry and drives innovation. EFO intends to issue a Request for Proposals every spring and encourages academic institutions and researchers to use the following set of [Research Priorities](#) as a guide when developing proposals.

Research priority areas	Details/examples	Link to EFO's Strategic Plan
Bird nutrition, health and welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bird health in alternative housing systems (e.g., gut and bone health) ▪ Pathogen exposure from inputs throughout the supply chain ▪ Bird behaviour in aviary systems ▪ Emerging diseases (e.g., Avian Metapneumovirus in layers) ▪ Research gaps to inform the Code of Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable farming practices ▪ Policies – housing transition ▪ Reinforce importance of biosecurity
Food safety, human nutrition and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zoonotic diseases ▪ Salmonella Enteritidis (e.g., on-farm risk factors, contamination pathways and prevention strategies) ▪ Shelf stable healthy foods derived from eggs ▪ Impact of transition to alternative housing systems on farmer health with a “One Health” approach ▪ Impact of severe weather events on egg safety and quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable farming practices ▪ Stimulate market growth
End of flock management for extended lay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pullet management/strategies for extended lay success ▪ Strategies to maintain shell integrity and egg quality during extended lay ▪ Older flock welfare (e.g., feather coverage) ▪ Transportation and housing changes for flocks in lay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extended lay
Environment and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manure management ▪ Energy use modelling ▪ Alternative waste streams ▪ Water use and optimization practices ▪ Impact of chemical and drug treatments used in disease control ▪ Nutrient use and alternative feeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable farming practices
Innovative egg-based solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Egg shell upcycling ▪ Biomedical applications ▪ Unconventional applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stimulate market growth ▪ Sustainable farming practices
Precision agriculture and technology advancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advancement of outcomes related to research and industry priorities through the use of technology and analytics ▪ Implementation/testing of new technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flock verification ▪ Sustainable farming practices
Public policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness and perception of supply management ▪ Succession planning ▪ Workforce sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government advocacy in support of egg industry ▪ Increase public trust

Note: Economic viability remains a central consideration across all streams of research. The egg industry must remain productive and competitive, and proposed solutions must be both practical and affordable. As such, the potential economic impact of each research proposal will be considered in funding decisions.