

August 10, 2020

OVERVIEW OF OBHECC SECTOR AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg and Chick Commission (OBHECC) is a membership group comprised of the Ontario Broiler Chicken Hatching Egg Producers Association members and Ontario Hatchery Association members. OBHECC is an organization which represents the interests of broiler breeder growers, broiler hatching egg producers and broiler hatcheries involved in the supply of day-old chicks to the chicken meat production industry.

Breeder Growers raise day old chicks supplied by the primary breeder and raise them until 20 weeks of age. Approximately 2 million broiler breeders are raised by 34 breeder growers on a yearly basis.

At 20 weeks the pullets and cockerels are moved from the licensed OBHECC grower facility to a licensed hatching egg facility. Hatching Egg Producers commence shipping fertilized eggs at 26 weeks of age and ship all production to a contracted broiler chick hatchery. The average lay cycle is 32 weeks. Approximately 255 million hatching eggs are produced in Ontario by 76 producers on a yearly basis.

There are 13 broiler chick hatcheries in Ontario, and they deliver approximately 242 million chicks to the Ontario marketplace. Under national trade agreements between Canada and other countries, 20% of Ontario's annual hatching egg and broiler chick production is imported. Today, USA is the only country exporting hatching eggs and broiler chicks into Canada.

Ontario currently follows the Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP) lead with respect to broiler breeder research, and OBHECC has a representative on the CHEP research committee. The CHEP research committee annually reviews CHEP's research priorities specific to the broiler hatching egg and chick industry, which form the basis of CHEP's research priorities and guides CHEP's research funding. Annually, in July, CHEP research committee member receives CHEP's research priorities and consults their respective members and relays feedback to CHEP. Every November, CHEP research committee members review the feedback received, and recommend a list of research priorities to the CHEP board of directors for approval. The approved priorities are sent to the Canadian Broiler Hatching Egg Producers Association (CBHEPA), the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC), and communicated to the research community

The majority of CHEP's funds are provided to the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC) which CHEP is a member and has a seat on the council board. CHEP's representative provides guidance to CPRC on funding decisions. CHEP also funds broiler breeder-specific research as deemed appropriate by the CHEP Board of Directors. CHEP also funds breeder-specific research as deemed appropriate by the CHEP Board of Directors.

Research Funding by CHEP is governed by a research contract signed by all parties, and typically includes stipulations for research reports, oral presentation(s), and extension articles explaining the research and the results in plain language for distribution to producers.

Research funding provided to CPRC is allocated as deemed appropriate by the CPRC Board of Directors and including a representative from CHEP.

A summary of current research priorities is attached.