

**Board Research Initiative
Request for Proposals**

Released – September 20, 2018

False Layer Syndrome

Background

False layer syndrome is characterized in commercial laying hens by incomplete development of the oviduct or cystic distention of the oviduct. Affected hens do not produce eggs but usually look normal otherwise. This condition has been seen extensively in Asia and more recently in Europe. It has been associated with early infection of layer pullets by a particular strain of infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) which permanently damages the reproductive tract. A similar syndrome has now been seen in both Canada and the US. Clinical investigations of these cases of false layer syndrome in North America also indicate the potential involvement of IBV.

Research Questions

- Is IBV infection the cause of false layer syndrome in North America? If so, what serotype(s) or genotype(s) are involved?
- What prevention and control measures can be developed for false layer syndrome in North America? Can a practical vaccine be developed to prevent false layer syndrome?

Areas of Focus

- Establish the cause of false layer syndrome in North America. If IBV infection is found to be the cause, characterize the IBV involved in the syndrome.
- Establish prevention and control measures for false layer syndrome in North America. If IBV infection is found to be the cause, develop vaccine candidates to prevent the syndrome.

Proposal Submission

Researchers should submit only a maximum two-page pre-proposal summary that describes the parts of the objectives they wish to address and what they propose to do. A title, the researcher's name, affiliation, and email address should be included in the pre-proposal. Details of procedures or specifics of the budget should not be included in the pre-proposal submission. Pre-proposals should be submitted in Microsoft Word format to Geraldine Dew at gdew@uspoultry.org. **DEADLINE FOR PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION IS NOVEMBER 1, 2018.**

The outcome of the pre-proposal review will be one of three responses from USPOULTRY:

- Send a full research proposal for consideration.
- Please make specific modifications in what you are proposing and send a full proposal.
- Do not send a full research proposal.

Full proposals will follow established USPOULTRY guidelines as seen at www.uspoultry.org. Funds can be used for graduate students, technicians, research supplies, and work and meeting travel. Funds cannot be used for professional (faculty or postdoc) salaries or equipment purchase. Up to 15% overhead is allowed. No budget, including overhead, may exceed \$125,000.