

**Board Research Initiative
Request for Proposals**

Presence of PFAS in Incoming Potable Water Supplies to Poultry Processing Facilities

Background

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are persistent environmental contaminants that have become an increasing regulatory and food safety concern. As federal and state agencies expand PFAS monitoring and establish drinking water standards, the poultry industry has limited scientific information on whether PFAS in incoming potable water used during processing contributes to residues in poultry products, by-products, wastewater or biosolids. Research is needed to better understand PFAS occurrence, potential transfer pathways, and distribution throughout poultry processing operations to inform future risk assessments, regulatory decisions and mitigation strategies.

Research Areas

Characterize the occurrence, sources and movement of PFAS in commercial poultry processing facilities and determine whether PFAS in incoming potable water contributes to residues in poultry products, by-products, wastewater or biosolids.

Research Questions

- Do PFAS present in incoming potable water transfer to poultry products or by-products during commercial processing?
- What are the primary sources and pathways of PFAS within poultry processing facilities?
- Which processing steps, if any, contribute to PFAS movement or accumulation?
- How are PFAS distributed among poultry products, wastewater and biosolids?
- What analytical methods are most effective for detecting and monitoring PFAS in poultry processing systems?
- What scientific data is needed to support future risk assessments, regulatory decisions and industry guidance regarding PFAS in poultry processing?

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 electronically at: <https://www.uspoultry.org/programs/research/>.

DEADLINE FOR PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION IS NOVEMBER 2, 2026.

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 to 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 <http://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.