

# **RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE PRIORITIES**

## **Alberta Chicken Producers**

1. Animal Health and Welfare
  - Management without antibiotics (challenges with weight uniformity, disease outbreaks, bird welfare, density, and feed ingredients)
  - Chick Quality (from egg handling and incubation, to farm management)
    - Understanding links between chick quality, health, and welfare
    - Methods to increase % of high quality chicks
    - Managing poor quality chicks
  - Nutritional and management means of promoting bird health
  - Addressing leg and footpad health through nutrition and management strategies
  - Farm to processing welfare (barn preparation, culling strategies, handling during bird catching and transfer to processing, cold/hot weather transport)
  - Strategies to reduce cellulitis
  - Emerging diseases
  
2. Food Safety
  - Salmonella and Campylobacter control
  - Pathogen control and reduction strategies (i.e. nutrition, biosecurity, feed preparation, cultivating healthy barn bacteria, disease surveillance)
  - Links between pathogens, chick quality, and improved food safety
  - Improved methods to clean barns and process birds from salmonella-positive flocks (practical, cost-effective focus)
  
3. Uniformity and quality of live birds and product
  - Increased processed meat quality (i.e. breast muscle defects, cellulitis)
  - Management and nutritional means to improve bird uniformity, carcass composition, and quality
  - Impact of lower-value feed ingredients and feed form on growth and quality
  - Impact of barn density
  
4. Industry sustainability and social commitment
  - Environmentally and socially responsible production and processing
  - Environmental impact of poultry production practices (i.e. water quality, environmental footprint)
  - By-product utilization
  - Maintaining consumer trust (i.e. social licence, worker health and safety)