



Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN)

Title: CIPARS/FoodNet Canada Farm Poultry Veterinarian Contract

Solicitation Number:

1. The Purpose and Explanation of an ACAN

An Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) allows the Public Health Agency of Canada to post a notice for no less than fifteen (15) calendar days, indicating to the supplier community that a goods, services or construction contract will be awarded to a pre-identified contractor. If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a Statement of Capabilities that meets the minimum requirements identified in the ACAN, the Contracting Authority may then proceed to award a contract to the pre-identified contractor.

2. Rights of Suppliers

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services or goods described in this ACAN may submit a Statement of Capabilities demonstrating how they meet the advertised requirement. This Statement of Capabilities must be provided via e-mail only to the contact person identified in Section 12 of the Notice on or before the closing date and time of the Notice. If the Bidder can clearly demonstrate they possess the required capabilities, the requirement will be opened to electronic or traditional bidding processes.

3. Proposed Contractors

Canadian Poultry Consultants Ltd.	Abbotsford	BC
Dr. Neil Ambrose	Victoria	BC
Poultry Plus Veterinary Consulting Ltd	Mission	BC
Poultry Health Services Ltd.	Airdrie	AB
Lloyd J. Weber Consulting Services	Guelph	ON
Smith & Weisz Poultry Veterinary Service	Guelph	ON
Elfrida Poultry Diagnostic Service	Caledonia	ON
Lakeside Poultry Veterinary Services Inc.	Stratford	ON
Zorra Veterinary Services	Thamesford	ON
Les Consultants Avi-Porc SENC	Drummondville	QC
Services Veterinaires Bees & Gorets	St. Hyacinthe	QC
Services Veterinaires Louise Mercier Inc.	Montreal	QC
Services vétérinaires A-Vet Inc.	Victoriaville	QC

4. Definition of Requirements or Expected Results

The Public Health Agency of Canada as a requirement to maintain and sustain a national farm-based antimicrobial use and resistance surveillance program in the broiler chicken, turkey and layer chicken sectors. This program collects samples and data from farms across the major poultry producing provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Québec) as part of a multi-commodity farm component of the Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS), and as part of a sentinel site-based farm, food and water-borne pathogen surveillance program under FoodNet Canada.



The CIPARS and FoodNet Canada programs and related research on antimicrobial use and resistance and pathogen prevalence for source attribution of enteric human disease cases have been undertaken on the basis of recommendations made by many groups, including the World Health Organization and the Health Canada Advisory Committee on Animal Uses of Antimicrobials and Impact on Resistance and Human Health, to investigate the association between antimicrobial use and the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in agriculture and its potential impact on human health.

The Broiler Farm Surveillance Framework was developed in 2009-2010 in consultation with an Advisory Committee made up of industry experts. Data from these surveillance programs will provide information on the epidemiology of food and water-borne disease, pathogen prevalence for source attribution of enteric human disease cases, and antimicrobial use and the occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in poultry production. The Broiler Farm Surveillance Framework has been used as the basis for the Turkey framework development process and the Layer Chicken development process for sentinel flocks distributed across the major commodity producing provinces.

The work will involve the following:

In consultation with representatives of the Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses, CIPARS/FoodNet Canada Program and other project collaborators, the Contractor shall:

Broiler Chicken Farms

1. Enrol or confirm the on-going participation of **Sentinel Broiler Chicken Farms** in the farm antimicrobial use and resistance surveillance program that meet the following criteria.
 - On Farm Food Safety Assurance Program (OFFSAP) compliant;
 - Quota-holding broiler operations (i.e., broilers are the major commodity but producers may also have other animal species and/or commodities on-site);
 - Antibiotic-free, raised without antibiotics or organic production systems will be selected proportional to the veterinarian's practice profile.
 - **Purposive representative selection** of farms within the **sentinel site or province**:

Within sentinel site or province, **private practitioners** should select broiler farms representative of:

- i. hatcheries;
- ii. feed mills;
- iii. geographic distribution of producers (i.e., not neighboring flocks).

Within sentinel site or province, **corporate veterinarians** should select broiler farms representative of:

- i. feed mills;
- ii. geographic distribution of producers (not neighboring flocks).

Veterinarians will be assigned flocks proportional to their practice profile and availability/commitment.

- Selected farms should also demographically be reflective of the veterinary practice (e.g., variety of flock management: poor to excellent performing flocks, variety in volume of chicks placed: low to high flock densities).
2. There will be two flock visits required for approximately one half ($1/2$) of the designated flocks:



- 1) CHICK PLACEMENT VISIT, carried-out when chicks arrive at the broiler barn or when chicks are placed, and
- 2) PRE-HARVEST VISIT, carried-out during the last week of production and birds are not less than 30 days old.

The Contractor shall schedule placement visits with the producer as the timing of sample collection at chick arrival is critical for sample quality. The sampling and data collection at chick placement is exploratory in the first year of the program; subsequent protocols may be amended to include only pre-harvest sampling and data collection for on-going surveillance. There will only be one flock visit required for the remaining one half (½) of the designated flocks: the PRE-HARVEST VISIT, carried-out during the last week of production and birds are not less than 30 days old.

3. Review and administer the *Informed Consent Form* when enrolling a broiler flock for that calendar year. The last page of the consent form should be completed, signed and dated by the Producer and the Contractor. Signed copies of this document are to be retained by the Producer and Contractor. Signed copies of this document should NOT be sent to the Public Health Agency of Canada to protect the identity, privacy and confidentiality of participating producers.
 - A new Flock ID Code will be assigned to each newly enrolled farm by Administrative staff at the Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses; this identification code should be recorded on the signature page of the *Informed Consent Form* for future reference.
4. Schedule and conduct each sampling visit, and submit the associated questionnaires and samples, as outlined in the *CIPARS/FoodNet Canada Broiler Chicken Veterinarians' Manual*.
5. The Contractor must ensure that flock sampling is distributed over the year or seasons, i.e., all flocks enrolled should not be sampled in the same month or season.
6. The Contractor should refer to the *CIPARS/FoodNet Canada Broiler Chicken Veterinarians' Manual* for standard operating procedures.

Turkey Farms

1. Select and recruit the required number of **Sentinel Turkey Farms** to participate in the surveillance network. Farms should be selected according to the following criteria;
 - TFC On-Farm Food Safety Program compliant;
 - Quota-holding turkey operations (*i.e.*, turkeys are the major commodity but producers may also have other animal species and/or commodities on-site);
 - Antibiotic-free, raised without antibiotics or organic production systems will be selected proportional to the veterinarian's practice profile.
 - **Purposive representative selection** of farms within the **sentinel site**:

Within sentinel site or province, **private practitioners** should select turkey farms representative of:

- i. hatcheries;
- ii. feed mills;
- iii. geographic distribution of producers (*i.e.*, not neighboring flocks).

Within sentinel site or province, **corporate veterinarians** should select turkey farms representative of:

- iii. feed mills;
- iv. Geographic distribution of producers (not neighboring flocks).



Veterinarians will be assigned flocks proportional to their practice profile and availability/commitment.

- Selected farms should also demographically be reflective of the veterinary practice (e.g., variety of flock management: poor to excellent performing flocks, variety in volume of chicks placed: low to high flock densities)
2. There will only be one PRE-HARVEST VISIT, carried out during the last week of production and the birds depending on the target market weight for example: from 64-71 days for broilers weighing 5.5 kgs avg, from 76-83 days for light hens at 7.2 kgs avg, from 99-106 days for heavy hens at 9.4 kgs avg, from 97-103 days for light tom at 12.2 kgs avg, and from 109-116 days for heavy tom at 15.1 kgs.
 3. Review and administer the *Informed Consent Form* when enrolling a turkey flock for that calendar year. The last page of the consent form should be completed, signed and dated by the Producer and the Contractor. Signed copies of this document are to be retained by the Producer and Contractor. Signed copies of this document should NOT be sent to the Public Health Agency of Canada to protect the identity, privacy and confidentiality of participating producers.
 - A new Flock ID Code will be assigned to each newly enrolled farm by CIPARS, Administrative staff at the Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses; this identification code should be recorded on the signature page of the *Informed Consent Form* for future reference.
 4. Schedule and conduct each sampling visit, and submit the associated questionnaires and samples, as outlined in the *CIPARS/FoodNet Canada Turkey Veterinarians' Manual*.
 5. The Contractor must ensure that flock sampling is distributed over the year or seasons, i.e. all flocks enrolled should not be sampled in the same month or season.
 6. The Contractor should refer to the *CIPARS/FoodNet Canada Turkey Veterinarians' Manual* for standard operating procedures.

Layer Chicken Farms

1. Enrol or confirm the on-going participation of **Sentinel Layer Chicken Farms** in the farm antimicrobial use and resistance surveillance program that meet the following criteria.
 - On Farm Food Safety Assurance Program (OFFSAP) compliant(Start Clean, Stay Clean);
 - Quota-holding Layer operations (i.e., Layers are the major commodity but producers may also have other animal species and/or commodities on-site);
 - Cage free, free range or organic production systems will be selected proportional to the veterinarian's practice profile.
 - **Purposive representative selection** of farms within the **sentinel site or province**:

Within sentinel site or province, **private practitioners** should select Layer farms representative of:

- i. egg producing companies;
- ii. geographic distribution of producers (i.e., not neighboring flocks).

Within sentinel site or province, **corporate veterinarians** should select Layer farms representative of:

- v. feed mills;



- vi. geographic distribution of producers (not neighboring flocks).

Veterinarians will be assigned flocks proportional to their practice profile and availability/commitment.

- Selected farms should also demographically be reflective of the veterinary practice (e.g., variety of flock management: poor to excellent performing flocks, variety in volume of pullets placed: low to high flock densities, different cage systems, if applicable).
2. There will be one flock visit required:
 - LAYING PHASE VISIT, carried-out during the laying phase, >30 weeks of age.
 3. Review and administer the *Informed Consent Form* when enrolling a Layer flock for that calendar year. The last page of the consent form should be completed, signed and dated by the Producer and the Contractor. Signed copies of this document are to be retained by the Producer and Contractor. Signed copies of this document should NOT be sent to the Public Health Agency of Canada to protect the identity, privacy and confidentiality of participating producers.
 - A new Flock ID Code will be assigned to each newly enrolled farm by Administrative staff at the Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses; this identification code should be recorded on the signature page of the *Informed Consent Form* for future reference.
 4. Schedule and conduct each sampling visit, and submit the associated questionnaires and samples, as outlined in the *CIPARS/FoodNet Canada Layer Chicken Veterinarians' Manual*.
 5. The Contractor must ensure that flock sampling is distributed over the year or seasons, i.e., all flocks enrolled should not be sampled in the same month or season.
 6. The Contractor should refer to the *CIPARS/FoodNet Canada Layer Chicken Veterinarians' Manual* for standard operating procedures.

5. Minimum Requirements

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a Statement of Capabilities that it meets the following minimum requirements:

- a) Must be a veterinarian licensed to practice in the Province(s) where sentinel flocks are located.
- b) Must have expertise in poultry medicine.
- c) Must be able to provide their own transportation to the farms.
- d) Must provide personnel for the collection and shipping of farm samples and questionnaire data according to *CIPARS/FoodNet Canada Poultry Veterinarians' Manual*.
- e) Must have client flocks eligible for participation in the program.

6. Reason for Non-Competitive Award

Specialized poultry veterinarians in Canada are in small supply. This group of individuals are in high demand and can subsequently cover wide geographical areas and large numbers of producers. By involving specific practices, in different geographical locations across Canada the farm poultry sentinel site program can then ensure that it is representative of both the demographic and geographic diversity of the Canadian Poultry industry.



These identified suppliers are regarded as a leaders in poultry medicine and production by both industry and fellow practitioners. The participation of these highly regarded suppliers in the National Farm Poultry antimicrobial use and resistance surveillance program lends credibility and validity to the program. It also demonstrates to industry and other poultry practices that this surveillance system is needed and supported by their industry leaders.

7. Applicable trade Agreements and Justification for Limited Tendering or the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business

This procurement is subject to the following:

*Internal Trade (AIT), Article AIT 502.1B 1a. Services that may only be provided by medical professionals are exempt from AIT

*World Trade Organization (WTO)

*North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Article NAFTA 1001.1b-2 B503 – Health and Medical Studies and F021 Veterinary and Animal Care (including Livestock) are exempt from NAFTA

8. Ownership of Intellectual Property

Canada intends to retain ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract on the basis that the main purpose of the contract is to generate knowledge and information for public dissemination. Without affecting any Intellectual Property Rights or interests therein that have come into being prior to the Contract, all Intellectual Property Rights in the Foreground Information shall immediately, as soon as they come into existence, vest in and remain the property of Canada. The Contractor shall have no right in or to any such Intellectual Property Rights in the Foreground Information except any right that may be granted in writing by Canada.

9. Period of the Proposed Contract

April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 with two (2) additional one (1) year option periods.

10. Estimated Value of the Proposed Contract

The total estimated value of the proposed contracts should not exceed \$77,000.00 for each individual contract, including travel and living expenses, and all applicable taxes. The payment for each visit including transportation cost; is approximately \$700 per flock, plus GST that requires a pre-harvest sampling only; or approximately \$1,400 per flock, plus GST that requires a placement and a pre-harvest sampling.

The total estimated value of approximately \$193,900.00 – \$644,700.00 for all of the contracts over the 3 year period. Contract value will depend on number of participating flocks and participating poultry veterinarians and the sampling required as delegated in each of the Poultry Farm Frameworks for Broiler Chicken, Turkey and Layer Chicken farms.



11. Closing Date and Time

The Closing Date and Time for accepting Statements of Capabilities is March 24, 2015 at 3 p.m. EST.

12. Contact Person

Include the following: All enquiries must be addressed by e-mail to:

Name: Sean Gosson

E-Mail: sean.gosson@hc-sc.gc.ca