

Request for Tender

CIEL Report: Learning to Live with Bird Flu

CONTEXT

Animal health is a key issue for farmers to manage in order to deliver world-class animal welfare outcomes and to reduce GHG emissions per unit of product. A variety of diseases provide challenges to UK livestock farmers, both endemic and exotic. Once exotic diseases become established in the farming environment, the strategy for control shifts from preventing establishment to one of managing flock health with appropriate technologies, protocols and regulation.

Bird flu or avian influenza is becoming more prevalent and persistent in the UK. Measures taken have helped to restrict spread of the disease but caused hardship to producers and, importantly, led to welfare issues where free-range birds have had to be kept indoors. Unlike previous years the disease doesn't appear to be eradicated and there is a high probability that it will recur next season. One viewpoint is that we should "learn to live with bird flu". But what does that mean for producers, their supply chain partners and consumers?

SCOPE

This **Tender** relates to CIEL commissioning a short report on "**Living with Bird Flu**", to inform the wider UK industry on the best strategy(-ies) for managing bird flu and what that entails. CIEL's aim is to provide an expert opinion, science-based review of issues to support balanced decision-making to shape the future of UK poultry production.

Tenders are invited to produce a short report that addresses the following bullet points.

- Assess the likely impact on poultry production of bird flu in terms of productivity, product quality, efficiency and carbon footprint.
- What are the best ways to minimise the effects of bird flu on UK poultry production systems with reference to preventing outbreaks, controlling outbreaks and mitigating impacts.
- Following on from this, compare and contrast risks to, and best mitigation strategies for, fully housed production systems *versus* free-range systems.
- Describe how industry can further adapt to employ the strategy(-ies) judged best for "learning to live with bird flu", with specific reference to free-range poultry producers, both layers and broilers.
- Produce a list of things the sector should do to improve our ability to control and mitigate the effects of bird flu, i.e. new innovation that targets "quick wins" to get results and maximise impact.

CIEL will publish this report as one in a series of industry relevant publications. The aim is to inform discussion about management strategies for bird flu and to improve understanding of the expected impact of bird flu. Authorship for the report that CIEL publishes will be attributed to those producing the final report.

The report should be written for an audience without technical scientific knowledge but an interest in poultry production, i.e. in a style accessible to farmers, their farm staff, processors and retailers.

This should be a short, expert opinion piece that could be backed up with scientific evidence if challenged. We are seeking a succinct report that makes use of tables and figures where those make key points clear, so unnecessary detail should be avoided. We are not seeking a scientific literature review.

Endorsement of the report from independent experts outside the authorship should be sought by the author(s).

TENDER FOR WORK

We are seeking tenders from a researcher or industry expert who:

1. Will lead a project to author and deliver the report.
2. Will be contracted through one organisation to deliver the report to CIEL.
3. There can be additional authors to contribute critical expertise to cover breadth of the topic, as considered necessary. Sub-contracting other experts is the responsibility of the lead organisation.
4. Produce a report of **c.12 pages of text plus relevant figures and tables**.
5. Will deliver to specification of the project in terms of **breadth of coverage, critical analysis** and in an **appropriate style for an industry audience**. This last point is particularly important.
6. Address issues identified by CIEL through comments on a draft report.
7. Gain endorsement from leading scientists from at least 1 other academic institution, with expertise in areas covered by the report. This is to highlight independence and rigour of the report.
8. Provide the raw data to CIEL to recreate figures and tables that can be used to support meetings with industry.
9. Support at least 2 significant briefings with industry and government after the report is published.

NB: CIEL reserves the right to edit text for the final publication without changing meaning for key ideas.

Tender documents should contain the following information for CIEL to use to assess tenders.

- Commitment to deliver a report to the specifications detailed in this document and through discussion with CIEL.
- Name of the lead organisation and the scientific expert who will lead work to produce the report.
- A list of other scientists contributing to the report, describing the expertise they bring. NB: CIEL considers this report could be produced by just one expert.
- A list of 3 relevant publications or reports produced by the author(s). Review articles aligned with the report topic would be ideal.
- A list of other scientists who will be approached to endorse the report.
- A short summary of key ideas that will be addressed in the report and likely source material.
- A commitment to meet deadlines specified for the report.
- Cost to deliver the report (££ + VAT).

There is a relatively short time frame for production of this report which is needed by 18th November. As predominantly a desk-based exercise, it is expected that this is achievable. CIEL expects to be engaged with for the final draft of the report to provide feedback on style and content.

PROCESS & TIMELINE

- Tender submitted to CIEL by email (enquiries@cielivestock.co.uk) by 18th August 2022 by email attachment with "TENDER FOR BIRD FLU REPORT" as the first words in the subject line of the email message.
- Tender submissions will be reviewed by a panel of at least 2 people comprising:
 - A member of CIEL executive team.
 - Either or both of a CIEL Board member and an external farming or food industry expert.
- Notification of successful award by 31st August.
- Draft Report due to CIEL for consideration by 28th October.
- Feedback from CIEL given to authors by 4th November.
- Final report given to CIEL by 18th November 2022.
- Report format is a MS-Word document with data for all figures and tables provided in MS-Excel so that CIEL can recreate these in a standard style for the version to be published. CIEL will produce the final report in a style accessible to the farming and food industry.
- Nominated experts from the project team need to be available for communications following publishing of the final Report, including answering questions from media or government at two meetings.