

DR. TINA WIDOWSKI



Egg Farmers of Canada Research Chair in Poultry Welfare

Egg Farmers of Canada supports research on current and future issues for the egg industry. We strive to promote continuous improvement of on-farm practices in animal welfare and care based on the latest scientific research.

With more consumers demanding choice in eggs produced under different housing systems, hen housing is a question of growing importance to the industry. To better explore and understand different housing practices and their effects on hens and egg production, Egg Farmers of Canada has invested in the creation of a Research Chair in Poultry Welfare in the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph, starting in 2011.

Dr. Tina Widowski



Dr. Tina Widowski is a world-renowned expert in farm animal behaviour and welfare, with a particular focus on poultry and swine. She is the Director of the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare and the Colonel K.L. Campbell University Chair in Animal Welfare. Dr. Widowski

has been instrumental as Chair of the Scientific Committee for the National Farm Animal Care Council's Code of Practice for the care and handling of laying hens and is serving on the Code Development Committee that is drafting the new code. Among other high profile international projects, Dr. Widowski sits on the Scientific Advisory Committee for Animal Welfare for United Egg Producers, a co-operative organization representing 90% of egg production in the USA. She is often invited to peer review scientific publications, to provide input on poultry standards of care, and to speak at poultry industry forums and workshops.



For more information about Egg Farmers of Canada, or our research chairs program, visit eggfarmers.ca, or contact us at research@eggs.ca.

Research projects

Dr. Widowski's work focuses on hen health and welfare, and best practices for the management of housing systems. In her first project, she examined how space allowance in enriched housing systems affects hen productivity and well-being. She recently completed a ground-breaking project that benchmarked hen well-being in different housing systems on commercial farms. Dr. Widowski is also studying the effects of different pullet rearing systems on hens' behaviour, bone health and egg production, as well as exploring how to optimize the design of enriched housing systems.

Research team

Dr. Widowski is working with a network of researchers around the world, as well as with top graduate and undergraduate students, fostering the next generation of industry leaders and experts. The research chair funding also supported the hiring of Dr. Alexandra Harlander, a trained veterinarian and animal welfare researcher who is exploring the development of flight and locomotion in different breeds of laying hens in aviary systems, and the causes and prevention of feather pecking.

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