

DR. TINA WIDOWSKI



# Egg Farmers of Canada Research Chair in Poultry Welfare

Egg Farmers of Canada supports a range of research initiatives in areas that will shape the future of egg farming in Canada. Our Research Chair Network, which includes a group of leading experts at universities across Canada, focuses specifically on issues and opportunities within the Canadian egg farming industry. Each research chair has established a research program at their respective university, overseeing graduate students and academic excellence.

Upholding best practices when it comes to hen health and welfare is at the heart of what egg farmers do. To better understand and advance hen welfare while maintaining effective and sustainable egg production systems, Egg Farmers of Canada established a Research Chair in Poultry Welfare at the University of Guelph in 2011.

## Dr. Tina Widowski



Dr. Tina Widowski is a world-renowned expert in animal behaviour and welfare. Balancing the health and welfare of farm animals with the economic sustainability of farms is key for Dr. Widowski's research. She has been instrumental as the 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 provides support during code review process.

Among other high profile projects, Dr. Widowski sits on the Scientific Advisory Committee for Animal Welfare for the U.S.-based United Egg Producers. For over a decade, Dr. Widowski acted as the Director of the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare and the Colonel K.L. Campbell University Chair in Animal Welfare. In 2018, Dr. Widowski received the Poultry Science Association Poultry Welfare Research Award and she was named an Influential Woman in the Agriculture in 2021.

## Research projects

For over 25 years, Dr. Widowski has been investigating factors that affect the well-being of poultry. In a recent research project, Dr. Widowski and her team explored the impact of different rearing styles on musculoskeletal development, locomotory abilities and fearfulness of growing pullets. Through her research, she explores techniques to further improve the design of enriched colony housing systems to enhance bird behavioural opportunities. Dr. Widowski is also studying strain differences in terms of bird behaviour and skeletal characterises to assess the best fit for different housing types. In her latest collaboration, Dr. Widowski partnered with Dr. Bettina Willie, a bioengineer at McGill University, to study the impact of pullet rearing environment on bone formation and skeletal health.

## Research team

Dr. Widowski works with a network of researchers around the world, as well as with top graduate and undergraduate students, fostering the next generation of industry experts. Since being appointed as the Egg Farmers of Canada's Research Chair in Poultry Welfare, Dr. Widowski has supervised dozens of PhD and master's students, many of whom hold leadership positions in the egg sector.



For more information about Egg Farmers of Canada, or our research chairs program, visit [eggfarmers.ca](http://eggfarmers.ca), or contact us at [research@eggs.ca](mailto:research@eggs.ca).

