



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

---

### **Study on the Development of Microbiologically Independent Lots of Raw Ground Turkey in Processing Establishments**

Issued by: National Turkey Federation (NTF)

Issue Date: September 3, 2025

Proposal Due Date: October 10, 2025

Contact: Lindy Froebel, Ph.D., [lfroebel@turkeyfed.org](mailto:lfroebel@turkeyfed.org)

#### **1. Introduction**

NTF invites proposals from qualified researchers or institutions to conduct a scientific study aimed at determining how to define and develop microbiologically independent lots of raw ground turkey within a single production day in a processing establishment. The findings will support the turkey industry in establishing science-based practices for lot definition that enhance food safety and regulatory compliance.

#### **2. Background and Purpose**

Currently, there is limited industry-wide guidance on how to define microbiologically independent lots of ground turkey produced during continuous or semi-continuous operations. This study seeks to fill that gap by identifying practical, science-based criteria and operational practices that can be used to establish distinct lots that are microbiologically independent.

The results of this study will inform best practices and may be used to support regulatory discussions, internal quality control programs and industry-wide guidance documents.

#### **3. Objectives**

Evaluate data generated from an established sampling protocol to assess the homogeneity and microbial independence of blends of ground turkey and to assist establishments with developing their lotting protocols.

#### **4. Scope of Work**

- Analyze aggregate data and establishment-specific data to assess homogeneity of blends and differences between blends of ground turkey.
- Develop a final report with findings, conclusions and practical recommendations.

#### **5. Deliverables**

- Project Work Plan (within 30 days of award)
- Interim Progress Reports (monthly or as agreed)
- Draft Final Report (for review and feedback)
- Final Report (including methodology, data analysis, conclusions and recommendations)
- Presentation of Findings (to the association and stakeholders)

#### **6. Who can apply**

- Research institutions, academia and private sector entities with demonstrated experience conducting quantitative data analysis and evaluating trends. Experience and familiarity with both the meat and poultry industries and analyzing microbial data is preferred.

#### **7. Proposal Requirements**

NTF requires that the following be submitted as part of the proposal:

- Cover Letter (with name/title and contact information)
- Technical Proposal including:
  - o Understanding of the project
  - o Proposed methodology
  - o Work plan and timeline
  - o Qualifications and Experience of the research team
  - o Budget and Justification
  - o References (past relevant work)

#### **8. Evaluation Criteria**

NTF will consider the following criteria when evaluating proposals:

- Scientific merit and feasibility of the proposed approach;
- Experience and qualifications of the research team;
- Relevance to industry needs;
- Cost-effectiveness; and
- Timeline and deliverability.

## **9. Submission Instructions**

Please direct any questions and submit proposals *electronically in PDF format* to:

Lindy Froebel, Ph.D. – Vice President of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs  
[lfroebel@turkeyfed.org](mailto:lfroebel@turkeyfed.org)  
202-898-0100

*NTF may follow up with additional questions or inquiries after reviewing submitted proposals.*

## **10. Award Notification**

Award winner will be notified via email on or before October 31, 2025.

## **11. Timeline**

- RFP Issued: September 3, 2025
- Proposal Deadline: October 10, 2025
- Award Notification: October 31, 2025
- Project Start Date: November 1, 2025
- Expected Completion: March 1, 2026