



Dr. Rachel Dennis
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Area of Expertise:

- Poultry behavior and well-being
- Behavioral and Developmental neurosciences
- Brain-gut-microbiome axis

Focus of Research:

- Short- and long-term impacts of embryonic and early life environments on neural development and resulting behavioral phenotypes
- The effects of environment, including lighting and environmental enrichments, on poultry behavior and well-being during different life stages.
- Optimizing behavior, production and well-being through manipulation of the gut microbiome
- The plasticity of the sensory systems and how alterations to these systems can impact neurophysiology and behavior

Current Funded Projects:

- MAES Grant – “The effects of maternal tryptophan on chick development and well-being”
- Animal Welfare Institute Research Grant – “ Effects of light spectrum on the well-being of birds used in research”