

BC BROILER HATCHING EGG COMMISSION

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



INDUSTRY INFORMATION

Save the Date – BCBHEC Christmas Social:

Mark your calendars for December 3 at 7:00 PM as we gather for the Christmas Social at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre. Join us for an evening of drinks, appetizers, and great conversation with fellow producers and industry colleagues. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Producer License & BQEP Farmgate Sales Trial License Applications:

Producer license applications have been distributed. Please submit completed applications to Michaela at admin@bcbhec.com by November 7, 2025. Please note that BQEP Farmgate Sales Trial license applications do not have a set due date.

PHAC Research Project – Avian Influenza (A(H5Nx)):

The Public Health Agency of Canada is conducting interviews with poultry sector members (e.g., producers, vets, CFIA) to better understand their needs and experiences related to avian influenza. The goal is to improve PHAC’s support and response in future outbreaks. More information is available in the attached package.

UofT Study: Poultry Farmers Needed for HPAI Survey:

Researchers from the University of Toronto are inviting Canadian poultry farmers to take part in a short **10-minute survey** about **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1)**. The study aims to understand farmers’ concerns, trusted information sources, and views on protective measures and vaccines. All questions are optional and confidential. As a thank-you, a **\$5 donation** will be made to one of three charities on your behalf. You can access the survey [here](#), and direct any questions to flusurvey.dlsph@utoronto.ca

Strategic Priorities – Upcoming Stakeholder Consultation:

Work on the Commission’s strategic priorities is actively underway. As part of this process, stakeholders will be invited to participate in a consultation period over the coming months. This will provide an opportunity to share input and perspectives that will help shape the future direction of our initiatives.

Research Under the Sustainable CAP (2023–2028):

Explore ongoing [research](#) and initiatives under the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (2023–2028).

Quota Billboard Reminder:

Producers are encouraged to regularly review the [Quota Billboard](#) for current opportunities related to quota leasing, purchasing, or sales.

PRICING

Pricing Orders				
Period	Live Chicken	Hatching Eggs	Saleable Chicks	Day-Old Broiler Chicks
A-194	2.1758 \$/kg	736.69 ¢/doz	76.74 ¢/chick	100.15 ¢/chick
A-195	2.1871 \$/kg	770.45 ¢/doz	80.26 ¢/chick	106.26 ¢/chick
A-196	2.2873 \$/kg	783.00 ¢/doz	81.56 ¢/chick	107.56 ¢/chick
A-197	2.2544 \$/kg	785.53 ¢/doz	81.83 ¢/chick	107.83 ¢/chick
A-198	2.2342 \$/kg	786.38 ¢/doz	81.91 ¢/chick	107.91 ¢/chick

PRODUCTION

Year-To-Date Hatchability:

81.5%

Average Lay Cycle End:

59.4 Weeks

Under- or Over-Placement Communications:

Producers are reminded that should there be an under or over-placement of hens that their next steps are to communicate with both the hatchery manager and Commission staff. Depending on the circumstance, an attempt will be made to source additional hens or monitor mortality to bring the net placement down to the correct placement amount.

Production Cycles		
Period	Start Date	End Date
A-194	Feb 9, 2025	Apr 5, 2025
A-195	Apr 6, 2025	May 30, 2025
A-196	Jun 1, 2025	Jul 26, 2025
A-197	Jul 27, 2025	Sep 20, 2025
A-198	Sep 21, 2025	Nov 15, 2025

Placement Date / Number Changes:

Production staff want to note that increasing placeable hens or changing placement dates can be challenging and usually must be done at least six months out (currently into March 2026).

Producer Pricing Adjustment – Vaccine Charge Included:

A vaccine charge of \$2.13 per bird is now included in producer pricing. Producers are encouraged to consider this in their budgeting.

ON-FARM

2025 Audit Stats

Total Premises to Audit: 49
Premises Completed: 39/49

Hatching Egg Tip

This [fact sheet](#) highlights the importance of proper feed bin management when using medicated feed. If you are unsure if you use medicated feed, contact your feed representative and view your feed schedule. Ensuring proper use of medicated feed is required under the Schedule 5 programs.

Biosecurity Status: RED

Industry is to function under the **RED** status of biosecurity. The **RED** biosecurity status is attached.

Newcastle Update:

The Primary Control Zone in effect for the detections of Velogenic Newcastle Disease remains a Security Zone. General permits are required for movements off-site. Surveillance may be required to revoke the zone. Please watch your inbox for further updates from the Poultry Industry EOC.

BCBHEC HPAI Peace Time Planning:

Staff has developed producer information packages on the Distinct Unit Policy and Infected Premises Timelines to aid in preparation and response time during disease outbreaks. Producers are encouraged to read these packages located on the [Producer Portal](#).

CFIA Epidemiological Investigation Webinar:

This webinar was recorded on September 18 and is posted on the [Producer Portal](#) for your convenience.

Employee Hiring Screening:

A reminder that CHEP offers free employee hiring screening for producers looking to screen potential employees. For more information and screening services, please forward requests to Kaitlyn at kaitlyn@bcbhec.com.

Audit Program Reminder:

Producers are required to provide annual supplier letters of assurance during Schedule 5 program audits from allied trades such as hatcheries, transporters, feed, and sawdust companies. Please ensure supplier letters of assurance are annually updated within your audit files.

Confidential Biosecurity Assessment for Producers:

Broiler Hatching Egg Producers are invited to complete a confidential biosecurity questionnaire and SE testing for this CHEP research survey. Your input will support a national overview, and you will be provided with a personalized biosecurity assessment. Details attached below.





Study Invitation: “Connecting with populations at-risk from Avian Influenza (A(H5Nx))” (PHAC)

The currently circulating strains of avian influenza (A(H5N1), or “bird flu”) pose an increased risk to our agricultural workers, especially those in the poultry sector who may face a higher-level exposure to infected animals.

As part of its comprehensive response to avian influenza, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is leading a project and using individual/small group interviews to:

- Quickly build a picture of the issue by learning from farmers/ agricultural workers and people working closely with poultry-sector workers, such as members of producer organizations, veterinarians, and inspectors working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).
- Learn about where and how poultry sector workers get information about avian influenza, what public health authorities can do to improve information for this group, and what challenges or barriers this group faces in following public health guidance on avian influenza.
- Understand poultry farmers’ and workers’ needs and challenges to keep themselves, their communities, their livestock, and their livelihoods safe from avian influenza. PHAC is also interested in hearing from people who keep poultry as part of a hobby farm or backyard flock.

Asking for your help:

Please **circulate this message within your networks, inviting your members to participate in an interview** for this work (up to 60 minutes). PHAC is scheduling interviews within the next few weeks (July and early August). Interested individuals can [book an interview with the researchers using this Microsoft Bookings calendar](#), or by emailing the researchers directly.

1. Feel free to **offer any advice on how to best connect with your members and/or with farmers/ agricultural workers** to recruit their participation in this project.
2. If you know of others who work in the poultry sector (e.g., a farmer or agricultural worker) or who keep a backyard flock and may be interested in sharing their thoughts for this project, please **share this message and the researchers’ contact information** with them.

If you have questions about this project, please feel free to connect directly with the researchers using any of the following contact information:

- Behavioural Science Office (bescio-bsc@phac-aspc.gc.ca);
- Rhiannon Mosher (rhiannon.mosher@phac-aspc.gc.ca); and
- Catherine Guo (catherine.guo@phac-aspc.gc.ca).

Thank you for your consideration to support Canada’s poultry sector and PHAC’s response to avian influenza.



HERE ARE MORE DETAILS OF THIS PROJECT:

Researchers:

- This project is being led by PHAC's Behavioural Science Office (BeSciO) with support from subject-matter experts in the Zoonoses Division.
- Rhiannon Mosher (rhiannon.mosher@phac-aspc.gc.ca) and Catherine Guo (catherine.guo@phac-aspc.gc.ca) are the primary investigators. They can also be reached through the Behavioural Science Office (bescio-bsc@phac-aspc.gc.ca).

Goal and Purpose:

- The goal of this work is to help PHAC understand poultry farmers and workers' needs and challenges to keep themselves, their communities, their livestock, and their livelihoods safe from avian influenza. This includes understanding what information these groups need, and what other concerns they want PHAC to be aware of.
- A key outcome of this work is to help grow or strengthen relationships between PHAC and people who work in the poultry sector to build trust that can support a healthy sector and PHAC's broader response to A(H5N1) and potential future outbreaks.
- PHAC wants to hear from people connected to large and small commercial farms, hobby farms and backyard flock holders.

Timeline:

- PHAC plans to gather insights from key informants and farmers/ agricultural workers (if available) in June and July 2025 to inform policy and guidance before the fall 2025 wild bird migration.
- PHAC will continue research with farmers/ agricultural workers, as needed, through fall/ winter 2025 to nuance initial findings. These additional insights will be reported in time to support the spring 2026 wild bird migration.

Methods:

- This project will seek experiences and opinions from poultry farmers/ agricultural workers and key informants (people working closely with poultry-sector agricultural workers, such as members of their producer organizations, veterinarians, and regional inspectors working for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency).
- We are planning to conduct individual semi-structured interviews (up to 60 minutes) to help build a clear picture of needs, challenges, and perspectives.
 - If alternative data collection approaches are recommended by our key informants, researchers may also use group discussions (up to 90 minutes) and/ or questionnaires.
- Producer organization members/ representatives will be asked about any avian influenza information they share with their membership, any insights for how public health authorities can build trust with farmers/ agricultural workers, and their perspectives on what motivates their members to follow public health guidance (or challenges to doing so).



Confidentiality & Privacy Measures

- This research has been approved by the Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada's Research Ethics Board (REB 2025-006P). Any personal information you provide to the Public Health Agency of Canada will be used by the Behavioural Science Office under the authority of section 4 of the Department of Health Act and section 3 of the Public Health Agency of Canada Act, and handled in accordance with the Privacy Act.
- **Why are we collecting your personal information?**
 - We are collecting your personal information to determine your eligibility for a research on H5N1. If eligible, we will contact you to get your views and opinions about following public health guidance related to Avian Influenza, and trust in public health authorities.
- **How will my information be used?**
 - There are no other uses of the personal information that we collect other than as stated above.
- **What happens if you don't want to provide your personal information?**
 - There are no legal or administrative consequences if you choose not to provide your personal information.
- **Your rights under the Privacy Act**
 - You have a right to complain to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada if you feel your personal information has been handled improperly. For more information about these rights, or about how we handle your personal information, please contact Behavioural Science Office at bescio-bsc@phac-aspc.gc.ca.
- **For more information:** The collection of your personal information is described in Info Source at infosource.gc.ca. Refer to the [personal information bank \(PIB\) PSU 938 - Outreach Activities](#).

Enhanced Biosecurity “Red”



*These measures are **in addition to your “Green” and “Yellow” biosecurity protocols**¹ and should be implemented on farms in a region where a disease or other threat is suspected or present.*

Controlled Access Zone (CAZ)

- Inform all family, friends, staff, service personnel, and allied trades of your enhanced biosecurity measures
- Keep your CAZ barrier locked at all times
- *Limit visits to only essential visitors. They must make an appointment and they must follow individual farm’s biosecurity requirements. Wherever possible, meet off the farm. (revised)*
- Implement your vehicle wash station at the entrance to your CAZ
 - Remove all organic debris with pressurized water
 - Disinfect tires, wheel wells, and under-carriages of vehicles
 - Disinfect the floor mats, pedals, steering wheel, and door handles of the interior of the vehicle with disinfecting wipes or a small spray bottle and paper towel
- Make sure garbage bins (dumpsters) are outside of the CAZ and reduce pick-ups as much as possible

Restricted Access Zone (RAZ)

- Keep all exterior barn doors locked at all times when not occupied by personnel
- When entering the RAZ change into barn specific coveralls and RAZ specific boots as well as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per WorkSafe BC requirements
- When exiting the RAZ leave all biosecurity gear on the RAZ side of the CAZ/RAZ demarcation
- Wash and or sanitize your hands before entering or exiting the RAZ
- Shower before and after completing your daily barn chores
- Restrict contact between commercial poultry and wild birds & wild bird droppings

Conducting Business

- Whenever possible conduct all activities through non-contact methods such as telephone, email, or fax
- *Ensure proper biosecurity protocols are implemented while attending and returning from any common public gatherings. (revised)*

¹ These are not all of the BC Biosecurity Program requirements; please refer to your producer manual for more information. Note if your commodity’s On-Farm Food Safety Program requires more stringent biosecurity measures please follow them instead. The measures above are minimum requirements.

CALLING ALL BROILER HATCHING EGG PRODUCERS! – RESEARCH SURVEY –

Help prevent *Salmonella* and HPAI

What's the issue?

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has listed *Salmonella* as one of the most important foodborne disease-causing agents in Canada, and poultry has been identified as a reservoir for *Salmonella*. *Salmonella* and risk factors for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) are important national research priorities for CHEP.

What is CHEP doing?

CHEP is funding a research project with Université de Montréal and the Swine and Poultry Infectious Diseases Research Center (CRIPA) entitled *Contribution of management factors to the evolution of Salmonella spp. genetic diversity and to the presence of Salmonella Enteritidis in broiler breeder flocks in Canada*, which is designed to *Salmonella* diversity on-farm, the associated risk factors for *Salmonella* and HPAI, and potential interventions such as improved autogenous vaccines.

This work is being led by Dr. Marie-Lou Gaucher, associate professor at the Université de Montréal, in collaboration with Dr. Manon Racicot, adjunct professor at the Université de Montréal, who will be responsible for the questionnaire part of the study.

What am I being asked to do?

Broiler hatching egg producers across Canada are being asked to complete a confidential, online questionnaire on their current on-farm biosecurity practices. The responses will be used to create a current picture of management practices on broiler hatching egg farms and a personalized biosecurity report will be generated for each participant.

Contact: marie-lou.gaucher@umontreal.ca



What's in it for me?

You will receive a **personal biosecurity assessment** tailored to your farm **at no cost** to you.

Your responses will improve current knowledge about risk factors for both *Salmonella* and HPAI, as well as better interventions on-farm.

The more responses, the better. The litter of your participating barn will be sampled twice during the study as part of the existing *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) monitoring program in your province, and a duplicate of this sample will be shared with the research team that will document the *Salmonella* diversity.

How will my personal information be protected?

The project numerically codes participant information and sampling results.

The research team will have access to the key that links the code and your identity during the data collection.

The research team only will have access to the data of the research. Your provincial organization will know your identity so that they can forward the litter samples collected to the research team.

However, neither these representatives nor CHEP will have access to the data collected during your participation or to your individual results.

After the end of the data collection, the key will be destroyed, so your data will be anonymized. This ensures your personal information always remains confidential.

Participation is voluntary. You can withdraw at any time, no questions asked.

Please note that once the collected data have been anonymized or once the publication process has started, they will no longer be withdrawn from the study.

Project updates will be available regularly. For more information, please contact your provincial board, or contact CHEP.

Should you be interested in taking part of this study, please contact the research team (marie-lou.gaucher@umontreal.ca).

