

BC BROILER HATCHING EGG COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



INDUSTRY INFORMATION

Producer Only Meeting September 16, 2025:

We’re hosting a Producer Meeting on September 16th at 7:00 PM at the BCBHEC office. Please RSVP with Michaela at admin@bcbhec.com. We hope to see you there!

Producer Resource: Latest BC HPAI Webinar Recording Available:

The latest BC HPAI Community of Practice Webinar featured two key presentations: wild bird movements in the South Coast and a BC poultry disease update by Dr. Tony Redford. Both sessions provide timely information for producers and allied trades and are now available on the [Producer Portal](#).

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.

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).

Join AgLife – Stronger Together Community Celebration:

Join AgLife at Greendale Acres in Chilliwack on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 4:00–8:00 PM for a free community event marking the 4-year anniversary of the 2021 Sumas Prairie floods. Featuring AgSafe BC’s *Stronger Together* video, we’ll celebrate the resilience of BC agriculture. Admission is free. [Register here](#).

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-193	2.1636 \$/kg	754.97 ¢/doz	78.64 ¢/chick	102.05 ¢/chick
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

PRODUCTION

Year-To-Date Hatchability:

81.6%

Average Lay Cycle End:

59.3 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-193	Dec 15, 2024	Feb 8, 2025
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

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: 36/49

Hatching Egg Tip

This [poster](#) highlights important facts on bird gut health.

Biosecurity Status: YELLOW

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

Newcastle Update:

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

Novel Tools and Technology Program (NTT):

The NTT provides funding for novel tools and research, intended to understand and reduce the risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza infection on high-risk commercial Lower Mainland poultry farms. The funding is offered per registered BC Premises ID. Producers are encouraged to find out more on this important opportunity [here](#). Additionally, an informative webinar on this program has been recorded and is posted on the [Producer Portal](#).

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.

Salmonella Control & Prevention Lunch and Learn October 2, 2025:

Dr. Gigi Lin from the Office of the Chief Veterinarian gave an informative and engaging Salmonella presentation at our last producer meeting in June. We would like to offer this educational session again to producers who missed this presentation. Join us virtually on October 2nd at 12:00 PM for a Salmonella Control & Prevention Lunch and Learn. Contact Kaitlyn at kaitlyn@bcbhec.com to sign up.

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).

Heightened Biosecurity “Yellow”

These measures are above mandatory standards and should be applied when there is a heightened disease risk or other threats in your region within BC.¹

Controlled Access Zone (CAZ)

- CAZ barrier should be closed at all times
- Restrict CAZ access to all unnecessary vehicles
- Establish a parking area outside of your CAZ
- Implement an “Essential Visitors Only” policy
- Minimize contact with all other avian (bird) and porcine (swine) species
- Minimize contact with all other poultry operations
- No mortalities and cull eggs to leave premise except on recommendation of a governing body (i.e. board/commission, veterinary, CFIA etc.)

Restricted Access Zone (RAZ)

- Keep doors locked at all times when the building is not occupied by personnel
- Closely monitor flock health for unusual changes in feed and water consumption, increased mortality, and unusual behaviour. Report any of the above to your Veterinarian and commodity board
- Clean and disinfect traffic area and access points after each egg pick up
- Minimize contact between commercial poultry and wild birds & wild bird droppings

Equipment

- All equipment and materials related to the production of poultry that enter or leave the CAZ, regardless of size or use, must be clean and disinfected

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



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](#).

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).

