

BC Poultry Emergency Response Team

Industry Update #9

Date: December 10, 2014

Time: 5:00 pm

Event: Avian Influenza 2014

The BC Poultry Emergency Response Team would like to extend a special thanks to all the processors, egg graders, and hatcheries for being so co-operative and working with industry to co-ordinate the permitting process. You have been very helpful in a difficult time and process.

Event Overview

- Three new cases confirmed – two in the Abbotsford/Chilliwack area and one in the Aldergrove/Abbotsford area
- Culling finished on IP1, IP2, IP3, and IP4. IP5 started today
- The Province has mobilized emergency operations crews to assist CFIA with destruction.
- Composting has not started on the first four IPs; still working on contracts with CFIA.
- We are working on a database to develop priority pick-up and drop-off schedules to move product on and off farms.
- CFIA expects to finish delivering the dead bird surveillance bins to all producers within the 3 km zone today. Please open the bins and read the instructions! This strain is very virulent, so monitoring flock mortality is a good early indicator. Please contact your respective board contact if you are unsure if you are in the 3 km zone and have not received a bin.
- Be very diligent in observing your flocks. As part of the permitting process, all producers within the infected and restricted zones are being asked by CFIA to monitor flock health; record and monitor the number of mortalities and track your flocks' feed and water consumption. **All producers should now have CFIA's flock information health sheet; if you don't contact your Board.**
- Take an active role in protecting your flocks by employing strict biosecurity measures on your property and immediately report any suspicious symptoms to your vet or the CFIA. **Don't be the one to initialise a cross-industry disaster.**
- the AI virus does not survive set and hatch conditions
- Free counselling is available for anyone through social services. The contact is Heleen Sandvik and she can be reached at 604-375-3487 (cell).

What can we expect from CFIA?

- CFIA has declared the **primary control zone**. Basically, the southern half of BC. Within this zone there are three disease control sub-zones: infected, restricted and security.
 - The outer boundary of an **infected zone** is up to 3 km from any known infected premises.
 - The **restricted zone** is established surrounding the infected zone and measured based on the epidemiology of the disease in order to prevent the spread of avian influenza (3 km to 10 km).
 - The **security zone** is the remainder of the primary control zone (beyond 10 km).

- **All movement** of captive birds in and out of, and through the primary control zone is strictly controlled and **now requires a permit from the CFIA**. Permits require flock health records and mortality records. A health record form can be found on the CFIA website shortly.
- The movement restrictions apply to:
 - captive birds (including but not limited to poultry, fowl and pet birds);
 - poultry products or by-products;
 - anything that has been exposed to captive birds (which could include but is not limited to feed, vehicles, equipment or clothing).
- **The movement restrictions also apply to poultry products and by-products and material that has come into contact with captive birds.** It is the responsibility of the producer to ensure any trucks going onto or leave the farm have permits. It is your assurance they are following the rules to minimize spread.
- **Permits**
 - Contact your industry reps before applying for a permit. Processors, hatcheries, and feed companies about permit. Permits must be displayed in trucks coming onto your farm; so permits should be filled in by companies coming onto your farm. Farmers responsibility will be the health part of the permit.
 - *Tips to speed up the permitting process*
 - Flock health sheets should submitted directly to processors/packers (company applying for the permit). Then the permit application and flock health record should be submitted as one document. Otherwise CFIA may not know that that the two forms belong together.
 - Be sure to identify species (broiler, turkey etc), include the premises ID, address info with postal code for all addresses
 - CFIA needs at least three days lead time to process **permits – plan ahead!**
 - You will need a permit to move birds on your own farm.
 - CFIA is working on developing a feed permit that will provide specific guidelines for trucks going on and off farms.
 - Product bought for human consumption does not need a permit.
 - Companies coming onto your farm with services such as power washing and vaccinating will need to apply for a general permit. Be sure they comply with strict bio-security guidelines.
 - If in doubt, apply for a permit.
- There will be no **placement** within 1 km of an infected premise. Outside the 1 km area, a permit will be required and there will be phased-in placement that will be monitored and tested.
- **Manure movement** is now prohibited within the 10 zone. CFIA met today with manure haulers to develop protocols to allow for pickup and delivery of lower risk manure movement. If you must store manure on the farm, be sure to store it according to Agriculture Waste Control Regulations and your sector's foods safety protocols.

- **Surveillance**
 - For farms within 1 km of an infected premise, CFIA will be conducting baseline surveillance with swab and blood tests. Producers must do twice weekly dead bird monitoring using the bins provided by CFIA.
 - For farms 1 to 10 km, surveillance will be done weekly via dead bird monitoring.
 - Bins have been dropped off at all farms within one km of an infected premise; CFIA is working on getting bins to the 1 to 3 km zone farm. Bins will be dropped at end of driveways of farms in the infected zone. There are some directions in the bins, so open the bins.
 - For all farms within an infected zone, you must report on feed and water consumption twice a week. Watch your flock carefully! Contact your vet if you see any changes.
- The CFIA website for more information and to download permits is: <http://inspection.gc.ca/ai>
- E-mail contact to ask for a permit: BC_NAI_Movement@inspection.gc.ca.
- Please fill out the CFIA's electronic background questionnaire (Tombstone) if you have been requested and send them to Christine Koch (koch.c@telus.net) who will forward to CFIA.

Event Chronology

December 1, 2014 – Two premises tested positive for avian influenza and have been quarantined by CFIA

December 2, 2014 – Two high risk contacts were identified, resulting in two additional premises being placed under quarantine. Industry has put voluntary movement restrictions in place and will be sampling all farms moving product out of the industry standard 3km zones. CFIA has not yet established control zones.

December 3, 2014 – No additional news

December 4, 2014 – Virus confirmed as highly pathogenic H5N2. The two high risk contacts have been confirmed positive for H5. H5 positive turkeys have been euthanized.

December 5, 2014 – The initial H5 positive breeder flock has been euthanized. All farms within 3 km of an infected premise have been issued quarantine notices. Dead bird surveillance has commenced in the 1km zone.

December 5, 2014 – A fifth suspect farm in the Aldergrove/Abbotsford area.

December 7, 2014 – AI confirmed on IP5.

December 8, 9, 2014 – no additional news.

December 10, 2014 – three new cases confirmed

Additional Information

Biosecurity

Bio-security has never been more important. It is the first step to preventing the spread of the disease. Coveralls in barn, no street shoes in anti-room. Wash all vehicles before they arrive and leave your farm with pressurized water and disinfection. This includes conveyor belts and any other equipment.

Producers must wash the undercarriage and wheels on all vehicles leaving the farm. This includes the farmers' own trucks and cars. **Note that this washing is the responsibility of the producer not the truck driver.** The allied trades will be informed of this biosecurity responsibility and will be asked to report back to the BC Poultry Association if their vehicle was not washed by the producer.

Truck drivers must not go in buildings because of strict biosecurity. This especially important in this outbreak because we are not sure how it got into barns and moves around.

Premise ID Numbers

When communicating with your hatchery, processor and CFIA, please use your premise id numbers. If you are not sure what your number is, please look at the signs on your barns. These numbers were created in order to easily identify farms in an emergency situation. These are the numbers that CFIA and the Ministry of Agriculture will be using to track any samples obtained on farm.

Social Media

Please refrain from posting items on Social Media (Facebook and Twitter) regarding this event at this time.

Handling Media Requests

As the BC poultry industry continues to work closely with provincial government authorities and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, it is critical to resolve this situation as quickly and effectively as possible. The industry is receiving media attention regarding avian influenza and the turkey farm in Abbotsford.

During this time, media may approach poultry producers directly for additional information or for interviews. Please do not speak to them as it is important that a consistent message and accurate facts be provided. Ray Nickel is the industry spokesperson during this time.

Direct all media requests to your commodity board office, politely and briefly.

If, for any reason, it is absolutely unavoidable to speak to media, simply say that you are aware of the situation and that the poultry industry continues to work closely with the government and Canadian Food Inspection Agency to resolve the situation quickly and effectively. **Direct them to call your board office.** Repeat if necessary.

Farm Summary

8	Poultry Farms positive for H5, placed under quarantine
21	Poultry Farms within 1 km of an H5 Positive Farm
108	Poultry Farms between 1 and 3 km of an H5 Positive Farm
275	Poultry Farms between 3 and 10 km of an H5 Positive Farm

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