

# BC Poultry Emergency Response Team

## Industry Update #17

**Date:** December 18, 2014

**Time:** 5:00 pm

**Event:** Avian Influenza 2014

Red font now denotes new information.

### Event Overview

- IP 11 confirmed; a boiler breeder operation in the Langley/Aldergrove area. Culling will start tomorrow.
- Disposal options are being examined for IP10
- IP1, 2, 3 composting under way; assessment plans being reviewed for IP4, 5, 6. A second composting company is being contracted
- Quarantine signs have been posted in various locations throughout the area. There has been some consumer reaction. The Emergency Response Team is working with a media expert to develop a media program to address to consumer concerns and confusion.
- WCB – if you are contacted by representatives from WCB; please politely ask them to contact the CFIA supervisor on-site. CFIA will address the questions through their OSH program. Provide FARSHA with the same suggestion.
- USDA officials have confirmed that the highly pathogenic H5N2 and H5N8 avian flu strains have been confirmed in Northern Pintail ducks and captive Gyrfalcons, respectively, in Whatcom County in Washington State.
- H5 N2 Avian Influenza has been confirmed in Michigan.
- **Clarification to all producers:** while all movement of captive birds in and out of, and through the primary control zone requires a permit from the CFIA; it is only Specific Permits that require flock health records and mortality records from farms within the ten km zone.
- Farms **must have** a wash stations at each farm site for trucks and other vehicles leaving the farm. At a minimum a hose with pressure fitting attached.
- Please don't contact the CFIA directly unless your farm has been declared an Infected Premise or if you've been contacted directly by CFIA. These phone calls are slowing down the processes and responses. **If you have any questions, contact your Board.**
- 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.**
- Producers have until April of 2015 to register for the Agri-Stability program year.
- Free counselling is available is for anyone through social services. The contact is Heleen Sandvik and she can be reached at 604-375-3487 (cell).

## Update on public health measures for Avian Influenza

- Fraser Health is encouraging all poultry farmers within the Fraser Valley to receive the annual influenza vaccine if they have not already done so. Farmers and others who work with live poultry are eligible for a FREE flu shot every year because of the risk of avian influenza. This year, with H5N2 avian influenza confirmed within the Fraser Valley, it is even more important to receive the flu shot.
- The flu shot does not prevent avian influenza, but it does protect against the current seasonal influenza that is circulating. If someone with human influenza also becomes infected with avian influenza, there is a chance that the virus could mingle and turn into a new virus that spreads easily from person to person (i.e., a pandemic influenza). Farmers who are exposed to avian influenza will be monitored by public health to assess whether they have developed flu-like symptoms, and may be recommended to take antivirals as prevention against avian influenza infection. Getting the flu shot is also recommended so that it is less likely to develop a dual infection, and to make it less likely that flu-like symptoms develop during the monitoring period. General flu prevention should also be followed: frequent hand washing, covering your cough, staying away from others when ill, and taking the appropriate precautions to avoid infection from people or poultry.
- You can get your free flu vaccine at your local pharmacy, family physician or by calling your local Public Health Unit ([www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca)). To find a flu clinic near you, please visit the BC flu locator at: <http://immunizebc.ca/clinics/flu>

## What can we expect from CFIA?

### CFIA contact information

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| • To report sick birds:                    | 604 557-4528   |
| • Movement Permits and Licenses            | 604-557-4522   |
| • E-mail for flock health reports:         | <a href="mailto:BC_NAI_Flockreporting@inspection.gc.ca">BC_NAI_Flockreporting@inspection.gc.ca</a> |
| • E-mail contact to ask for a permit:      | <a href="mailto:BC_NAI_Movement@inspection.gc.ca">BC_NAI_Movement@inspection.gc.ca</a>             |
| • To report missing bins:                  | <a href="mailto:BC_NAI_Surveillance@inspection.gc.ca">BC_NAI_Surveillance@inspection.gc.ca</a>     |
| • CFIA AI website - information & permits: | <a href="http://inspection.gc.ca/ai">http://inspection.gc.ca/ai</a>                                |

### Zones

- 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.
- 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.

### Flock Health Reports

- **A heads-up to ALL producers within the 10 km zone (this includes those producers within the 1 km zone):** CFIA will shortly stop movement of product if the flock health reports are more than 96 hour old. Producers must fill out the reports daily and send them to CFIA twice per week. In order for a movement permit to be issued, the flock records that the CFIA has on file **MUST** be no older than 96 hours old at the time of movement.
- Flock health records must be as current as possible when they are submitted because permits may take up to three days to process. So if the flock health record was already a day or two old when it was submitted it could stall the permit process.
- Please use the new version of the flock health sheet. A reminder that they are a very important early indicator of possible AI presence. There is often a decrease in feed and water consumption a day or two before the sudden increase in mortalities. Look for what is outside of normal.
- There have been issues with flock health sheets not being filled out correctly where feed and water data was missing. Often it's because the producer doesn't track consumption. In these cases, be sure to check off the box that asks if feed and water consumption and production is normal.
- Broiler Growers, Turkey Growers and Table Egg Producers must email their flock health reports to CFIA **twice pre week**. In the subject line of the email, please write "Flock Health\_Premise ID #".
- Hatching Egg Producers must email their flock health reports to their hatchery who will attach them to the Movement Permit Application Form.

### Surveillance

- Dead bird surveillance bin participation is only around 33%. It is very important for producers to participate. It's critical in identifying what is going on with AI. The alternative is CFIA carrying out testing in your barns. Put bins upside down if you don't have any dead birds. **Note that movement of birds and products will be dependent on the fact that the farmers participate in the Dead Bird Surveillance program.**
- Anyone on Dead Bird Surveillance must supply dead birds as per their schedule not just for movement purposes.
- **Contact your Board if you haven't received a bin.**
- **Dead birds should be in the bins by 8 AM of their pick-up day.**
- CFIA has strict bio-containment protocol for their surveillance people and they have provided the Industry EOC with the protocols.
- 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 and fill out flock health sheets.
- All Broiler Breeder Barns and Broiler Breeder Pullet operations within 3 and 10 K zones will have their Dead Bird Surveillance Sampling frequency increased to TWICE weekly. New sampling dates for previously scheduled sites will be based on the previously assigned date:
  - Mon - Thurs

- Tues-Fri
- Wed - Sat.

## Permits

- If farmers are hauling their own feed, they need to go onto the CFIA website for a General Permit. Be sure to comply with the requirements of the permit.
- **Producers should not be applying for permits.** Farmers' responsibility will be the health part of the permit. The only time producers need to apply for a permit is when moving pullets/product to another farm.
- ***processors/packers/graders etc Tips to speed up the permitting process***
  - 70% of the errors on the permits are from industry; this slows down the permitting process. It can be as simple as a wrong address, missing postal codes or outdated flock health sheets.
  - Put date and pick-up time in the subject line, so they can easier be prioritized.
  - You can help by putting the following information in the subject line "MOVEMENT\_farm premise id #\_date **and time** of movement". In addition, permit applicants should include both the premise ID number and control zone after the Farm Name in the Business Name field. You should include this information for Hatchery, Processor and Grading Stations as well. Please continue to include the flock health report with the permit application. Please note: when you fill out the permit application form online and hit send, there is no way to add an attachment.
  - Include your e-mail address if you would like to receive the permit from CFIA. Print clearly!!
  - **Same day has to be received by 2:00 PM.**
  - Remember postal code for every single permit! Otherwise, they spend time looking them up.
  - Please do not resubmit requests that have already been sent to the BC\_NAI\_Movement BC account. **Duplicate entries cause slowdowns in the process.** Enquiries related to an existing application can be directed to your industry representative or you may call the Movement Permits and Licenses line at 604-557-4522 between 8 am and 5 pm PST.
  - Please apply for all permits 72 hours before the movement is required to allow adequate processing time.
  - For any application for a multi-use permit, ensure you include the Names, Addresses and BCID for all locations included in the application
  - For amendments to existing applications - Please ensure you clearly indicate that this is an amendment in the subject line and body of the message and reference the date and time of the original application.
- CFIA has developed a feed permit system to facilitate feed delivery
- CFIA is working on multi-use permits for hatching eggs, chicks, and table eggs.
- 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.

## Manure movement

- Manure/litter movement under specific permits is now allowed. The permit is on the CFIA website. It outlines the steps producers must take before the manure can be moved off the farm.

- Producers are reminded that manure movements, on or off-site, without a permit remain prohibited at this time. Producers should contact their manure haulers for more information if it is being transported off-site. Manure movements on-site also require a permit. The application for a specific permit is available at [www.inspection.gc.ca/permits](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/permits). Producers are also reminded that a number of conditions must be met prior to moving manure out of a barn. These conditions are outlined when the permit is issued and are available on the CFIA website. The applicable local, provincial and federal manure regulations also still apply.
- For Manure Movement Permits, all applications sent prior to December 17th, 2014 must be resent to the BC\_NAI\_Movement BC account. Please note that for these applications:
  - No pickups can be made within 1 km of an infected premise
  - Each application must be accompanied by a list of all pickups in the Fraser Valley, all destinations in all areas, and all vehicles used
- CFIA is getting complaints from the general public about manure spreading. A reminder that manure spreading is not allowed under the Agricultural Waste Control Act this time of year.

### Case control study

- CFIA is developing a questionnaire to help investigate the outbreak. It will ask questions to see if they can determine why a farm gets AI and a farm right next door doesn't get AI. It could really help ferret out what is behind the outbreak. Everyone should participate and reply honestly.

### 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
- **December 11, 2014** – a ninth farm in a new area has been identified
- **December 12, 13, 2014** – no additional news.
- **December 14, 2014** – IP10 confirmed in the Aldergrove/Abbotsford area
- **December 15, 16, 17, 2014** - no additional news
- **December 18, 2014** – IP11 confirmed in the Langley/Aldergrove area

### Additional Information

## Biosecurity

**Bio-security has never been more important.** It is the first step to preventing the spread of the disease.

**Access to pressurized water for trucks.** Biosecurity protocols state that farms must have pressurized water at the edge of their control zone. The allied trade is reporting that at least 50% of farms don't have pressurized water available for trucks coming onto and leaving farms. Boards are considering enforcement options. 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.**

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.

## 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 spokespeople 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

11	Poultry Farms positive for H5, placed under quarantine
30	Poultry Farms within 1 km of an H5 Positive Farm
109	Poultry Farms between 1 and 3 km of an H5 Positive Farm
288	Poultry Farms between 3 and 10 km of an H5 Positive Farm

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