

BC Poultry Emergency Response Team

Industry Update #1

Date: December 2, 2014

Time: 5:00 pm

Event: Avian Influenza 2014

Event Overview

Information as of December 2, 2014

Preliminary testing from the BC Ministry of Agriculture has confirmed the presence of H5 Avian Influenza on two farms in the Fraser Valley, the N-type has not been determined:

1. McDermott Farms (turkeys) – 38605 # 5 Rd, Abbotsford
2. Trine Enterprises (broiler breeders) – 5388 Blackburn Rd, Chilliwack

Both farms have been placed under quarantine to control disease spread. All birds on the infected premises will be humanely euthanized and disposed of, in accordance with provincial regulations and international disease control guidelines.

CFIA will ensure the quarantine of infected farms and determine a surrounding surveillance zone for further testing. The CFIA will take the lead on required depopulation of birds while the Province will provide technical support on required carcass disposal. Once all birds have been removed, the CFIA will oversee the cleaning and disinfection of the barns, vehicles, equipment and tools to eliminate any infectious material that may remain.

The Province of BC, the CFIA, the owners of the infected birds, and the poultry industry are working closely together to manage the situation.

Industry has restricted the movement of eggs within the anticipated control zone while we await more information from CFIA. These results should be obtained within 24-48 hours, but that is an estimation based upon past experience.

What can we expect from CFIA?

CFIA is in the process of determining what their infected, restricted and security zones will be set at. These distances will depend on the pathogenicity of the virus.

Infected Zone – A zone or zones which include all NAI-positive premises. The outer boundary will be at least 1 km and up to 3km from any known infected premises. It is likely that growers will need permits to move product out of the infected zone and will not be able to repopulate until CFIA lifts the restrictions on infected premises. Dead bird surveillance twice per week will also be likely to occur.

Restricted Zone – A zone established immediately surrounding the Infected Zone, and measured based on the epidemiology of the disease. The outer boundary of this zone will be at least 10 km from any known infected premise. Weekly dead bird surveillance and pre-movement testing is likely to occur for producers in this zone.

Security Zone – The geographic area between the perimeter of the Restricted Zone and the edge of the Control Area. This zone is controlled and referred to as a Security Zone to prevent confusion when the rest of the country is referred to as “Free”. The Control Area is likely to be set as the Province of BC.

As we receive updates from CFIA we will forward them to producers, along with the appropriate forms to fill out in order to obtain movement permits.

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.

Thank you for your cooperation during this time.

Additional Information

Biosecurity

Please ensure that all enhanced biosecurity measures are in place on your farm and that you are following the guidelines as outlined in Appendix 6 of your Biosecurity Manual (Self Quarantine Procedure). It is very important that you contact your veterinarian if there has been an unexplained:

- Increase in mortality
- Change in feed/water consumption
- Decrease in egg production/shell quality
- Onset of clinical signs of disease

Our #1 Priority is to control the spread of this disease and re-establish our province as an Avian Influenza Free Zone. We need 100% Producer and Allied Trade participation in biosecurity in order for that to happen.

Some enhanced biosecurity measures that you can take are:

- Keep your gates closed at all times and locked if you are within a 3km zone or would like service personnel to follow additional biosecurity measures
- Disinfect Service vehicles coming on to your farm
- Ensure that you have no standing water or organic matter on your driveways
- As always, ensure that your barn doors are locked

Social Media

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

BC Poultry Emergency Operations Center

The BC Poultry EOC has been activated and is cooperating with CFIA and the BC Ministry of Agriculture. We will be working closely with both agencies to help eradicate the virus.