

BC Poultry Emergency Response Team

Industry Update #4

Date: December 5, 2014

Time: 5:30 pm

Event: Avian Influenza 2014

Event Overview

Information as of December 5, 2014

CFIA has placed all farms within 3km of an infected premise under quarantine. CFIA will be visiting each of these farms either today or tomorrow to drop off the quarantine notice and dead bird surveillance totes. At this time, CFIA has not yet set up an Infected Zone or Restricted Zone. These should be determined within the next few days.

CFIA in processes of setting the Control Area which Industry is proposing to be defined as the region of BC from the Pacific Ocean on the East to the Rocky Mountains on the West, and the US Border on the South to Hwy 16 on the North. This area does not include the Peace River Region. This will allow hatching eggs and chicks to continue to be transported to the Interior and Island regions, ensuring that producers in those regions can continue to operate as normal.

The poultry industry is performing voluntary testing on all poultry premises in the 3km zone who are moving product (eggs, broilers and turkeys). **The industry veterinarian will contact you directly to set up the sampling.** This is very important as product will not be allowed to be transported if the farm does not have negative test results ahead of time. These are **industry veterinarians** taking the sample who know the proper biosecurity and sampling protocols to ensure that CFIA recognizes the samples and that disease is not being spread.

What can we expect from CFIA?

Once CFIA has determined what their zones are going to be, farms in the affected regions will be notified regarding any additional requirements that CFIA has imposed.

An Electronic Questionnaire will be sent out to all farms in 1km zones. These operations will need to complete these questionnaires and send them to Christine Koch who will forward to CFIA.

The BC Poultry Emergency Response Team is working with CFIA and will forward information as soon as possible. Once these regions and protocol have been established, the emergency response team will help coordinate with producers and other industry stakeholders to ensure that permits are obtained in a timely manner.

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.

Additional Information

Biosecurity

Effective immediately, all poultry farms within the 3 km zone must have pressurized water at the farm gate or cleaning station. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Farm Summary

4	Poultry Farms positive for H5, placed under quarantine
17	Poultry Farms within 1 km of an H5 Positive Farm, all placed under quarantine
54	Poultry Farms between 1 and 3 km of an H5 Positive Farm, all placed under quarantine