

BC Poultry Emergency Response Team

Industry Update #8

Date: December 9, 2014

Time: 5:00 pm

Event: Avian Influenza 2014

Event Overview

- Culling finished on IP1, IP2, IP3, and IP4. Expect IP5 to start tomorrow
- With the declaration of the primary control zone yesterday, industry is now in a transition away from individual quarantines to a general and specific permit-based system to control movement. The logistics to moving from 1 and 3 km zones to a 10 km is challenging; please be patient.
- 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. If the feed and water is not metered, ask yourself are they normal?
- Be very diligent in observing your flocks. This strain is very virulent, so monitoring flock mortality is a good early indicator. 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.***
- There will be more industry conference calls in future
- 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 will be 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. The permit will involve monitoring flock health – food and water consumption, number of mortalities, and dead bird surveillance using bins dropped off by CFIA.

- **Permits**
 - Contact your industry reps first before applying for a permit - processors, hatcheries, and feed companies. 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
 - CFIA needs at least three days lead time to process **permits – plan ahead!**
 - The priority will be for flocks within the 1 km rather than the order they came in.
 - The phone number for permits is not always working, so use the e-mail below. Put your shipping date and premises ID in the subject line. Include within the body of the e-mail what you're asking for (birds out, chicks in etc.) 3-5 days health records showing mortality, water/feed consumption, and farmer observations. Include whether your vet has done any testing for AI.
 - Permits have a bio-security standards; CFIA will be sending out guidelines on how to ramp up bio-security levels on your farms.
 - 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. Feed companies will be applying for and filling out these permits.
 - Product being bought for human consumption does not need a permit.
 - 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 is working on 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.
 - CFIA has now developed a health flock survey to use for reporting. It will or was circulated by your Board.
- 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.

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.

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

5	Poultry Farms positive for H5, placed under quarantine
20	Poultry Farms within 1 km of an H5 Positive Farm, transitioning from quarantine to permits
81	Poultry Farms between 1 and 3 km of an H5 Positive Farm
252	Poultry Farms in the 3-10 km zone

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