

BC Poultry Emergency Response Team Industry Update

Date: January 7, 2015

Time: 3:00 pm

Event: Avian Influenza 2014

Red font now denotes new information.

Event Overview

- Today is a milestone – it has been 21 days since the last commercial outbreak. However we are only just starting the normal flu season. Our challenge will be to maintain a high level of biosecurity.
- All IPs are in varying stages of composting and C&D.
- The CFIA will be working with 40 non-infected farms in 1 km zones on the case control study. It is a two hour questionnaire. Be supportive and participate in the survey if you are contacted; some important information could come out from the study.
- **Conditions for Pullet Movement**
 - **There is now a requirement for veterinary inspection on both source and destination flocks under certain circumstances.** Please note that the conditions must be understood **completely** before applications are made. The requirement for pre placement veterinary inspection on source remains and is not a new condition. The movement of live birds is a high risk movement and the conditions associated with this movement reflect this. Please read the attached conditions carefully as all the conditions apply.
 - For source and destination flocks within a 1-3 km zone of any IP, there is a requirement for two weeks of flock health sheets and twice weekly dead bird surveillance for at least two weeks prior to movement. Thus, industry is being requested to identify these flocks which want to move birds in the next 2-3 weeks so their testing can be set up. The CFIA will not be increasing the dead bird surveillance pickups to twice weekly for these farms unless they **self-identify to BC_NAI_diagnostics@inspection.gc.ca** .Please copy BC_NAI_Movement@inspection.gc.ca. These conditions will not be waived.
 - The CFIA has the right to change any of the permit types or movement requirements at any time during the NAI outbreak without prior notice. It is the responsibility of the person planning the movement to obtain the most current movement requirements prior to moving the controlled commodities.
- 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. High path H5N8 found in small flock in Oregon. **On January 3, a backyard flock in Benton County, Washington State tested positive for H5N2, with at 92% simialrity to the recent AI isolated from a duck in Watcom County.**
- **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.
- **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 counseling services are available for anyone affected through provincial disaster support services. The contact is Heleen Sandvik and she can be reached at 604-375-3487 (cell).

What can we expect from CFIA?

CFIA contact information

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

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

- **CFIA will no longer approve permits with old health questionnaires.** Questionnaires must be versions from Dec 19th or newer.
- **Please note that all producers need to fill in both pages, regardless of species of bird.**

- **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 hours old. Producers must fill out the reports daily and send them to CFIA twice per week.
- 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 or as directed by their hatchery, who will attach them to the Movement Permit Application Form.

Surveillance

- Dead bird surveillance bin participation is 94%. Thank you for your support of this important monitoring program.
- **If you see a "wild dead bird" on your property, please do not touch it. Call your Board office and they will arrange for a Board Auditor to come out and remove it from your property for testing.** This may help us determine what type of birds are carrying and/or dying from the virus.
- **Dead bird bins** - To help ensure compliance and speed up pick-up:
 - Put bins upside down if you don't have any dead birds.
 - If you identify a dead bird on your flock health sheet, please ensure it is in the bin as soon as possible. One possible way to achieve this is to bag it, and place it in the clean/disinfected bin the night before. If you're worried animals may bother it put weight (e.g. a cinder block) on the lid.
 - Anyone on Dead Bird Surveillance (e.g. within 1 km zone) must supply dead birds as per their schedule not just for movement purposes.
 - Place bins at your gate – this way CFIA staff only need to come to the gate and do not have to enter onto your farm. Regardless CFIA staff is following all required biosecurity protocols.
 - **Contact your Board if you haven't received a bin or if you don't have enough bins or if yours has been stolen (note: you need 1 bin per sub premise).**
 - **Have 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. This will include all who had previously been scheduled for ONCE a week. New sampling dates for previously scheduled sites will be based on the previously assigned date: Mon – Thurs; Tues-Fri; and, Wed – Sat

Permits

- Permit applications should be in 72 hours prior to the required movement.
- 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.
- After Dec 28th, for farms within the 1 km IPs and 1-10 IPS zones, current negative test results are mandatory prior to issuing permits for these operations. This does not apply to the commercial waterfowl sector as they have not had the opportunity to arrange the mandatory testing necessary for their sector.
- **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, time is wasted 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 and 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.
- **Non-poultry operations** that transport poultry manure must follow the necessary guidelines and also have the necessary permits. The guidelines are subject to the regulations as outlined in Appendix M of the Hazard Specific Plan available on the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca/ai and pertain to all movements of poultry manure in the FV.

- 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. 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.
- Reminder: manure spreading is not allowed as per 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 – IP 1-2 identified and quarantined by CFIA

December 2, 2014 – Two high risk contacts identified, resulting in two additional premises being quarantined. Industry voluntarily restricted movement and began sampling all farms moving product out of the industry standard 3km zones. CFIA had 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 were euthanized.

December 5, 2014 – Initial H5 positive breeder flock was euthanized. All farms within 3 km of an infected premise were issued quarantine notices. Dead bird surveillance 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

December 19, 2014 – no additional news

December 20, 2014 – IP NC 01 identified in North Aldergrove. New conditions for pullet movement.

December 21, 2014 – no industry report issued.

December 22-31, 2014 – no additional news.

January 1 – 7, 2015 - 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. **We are just now entering the traditional start of avian flu season – do not lower your biosecurity precautions and standards. Biosecurity is your only defence against AI.**

- **Access to pressurized water for trucks.** Biosecurity protocols state that farms must have pressurized water at the edge of their control zone. 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.** With the temperatures dropping this week; farmers should disconnect the hose and bring it into the barn so it doesn’t freeze solid. Communicate with your feed representative to see when the feed truck is expected so you can be there to wash the truck as per your biosecurity responsibilities.
- 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

1	Non-commercial poultry positive
11	Poultry Farms positive for H5, placed under quarantine
32	Poultry Farms within 1 km of an H5 Positive Farm
127	Poultry Farms between 1 and 3 km of an H5 Positive Farm
270	Poultry Farms between 3 and 10 km of an H5 Positive Farm

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