

Spiking Male Review: Work Action Plan

Purpose:

- To confirm interim regulations and registration protocols as the BC Hatching Egg Commission (“the Commission”) transitions away from premise to premise spiking male movement.
- Consider the long term plan to eliminate the disease transfer by the movement of spiking males.

Stakeholders:

- BC Hatching Egg Producers
- BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers’ Association (BCBHEPA)
- BC Chicken Growers’ Association (BCCGA)
- BC Chicken Marketing Board (BCCMB)
- BC Egg Hatchery Association (BCEHA)
- Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP)
- BC Ministry of Agriculture (BCMA)
- BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB)
- BC Poultry Veterinarians

Outcome:

- Consider the interim strategy and ensure it allows for a transition to non-movement of spiking males while;
- Ensuring the Industry risk is mitigated thorough a criteria and registration process.
- Orderly Marketing and Sound Marketing Principals are upheld.
- Hatching Egg Producers have an efficient transition time to work through the long term initiative of no movement of spiking males by 2020.

Process:

1. Interim measures put in place effective October 1, 2017.
2. Steering Committee to work through the Work Action Plan by February 2018.
3. Commission to review material provided and consider long term solutions for the elimination of spiking male movement between premises by year end 2020 decision to be made by April 2018.

Background:

The BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (“the Commission”) is currently considering a long term plan of regulation eliminating the movement of spiking males between premises.

Currently spiking males move from one premises to another with a recommendation from the Commission to Producers to ensure that the birds entering their flock have been tested for specific diseases.

Spiking Male Review

In 2014 two premises were infected directly with Avian Influenza as a result of spiking male movement. In 2016 five premises were infected with Coryza as a result of spiking male movement.

The Commission recognizes the Biosecurity concerns by both the Hatching Egg Producers and Industry stakeholders as a result of this practice and has established short term risk mitigating strategies.

The purpose of these strategies is to provide short term relief to the Hatching Egg Producers while plans are developed to be able to self-spike. Additionally, the Poultry sector can spend resources on other emergency planning as the Commission Staff will be able to trace the movement of spiking males through a criteria and registration process.

Phase 1:

Consultation and Research Phase- conducted by a Steering Committee comprised of two BCBHEPA directors, two Commission members and supported by ministry veterinarians, staff and funding.

Approach:

- Develop a questionnaire for Hatching Egg Producers on their historical spiking male practices including: how often they are spiking, what testing is conducted and what/ if any quarantine procedures are in place.
- Consult with a third party veterinarian to review the testing schedule to ensure the biosecurity expectations for transfer are addressed.

Expected Outcome:

- Transparent engagement with Industry Stakeholders.
- A clear concept of how Producers are using spiking males.

Deliverables:

- A confirmation that the interim steps are sound and can ensure Biosecurity while long term plans are introduced to the Hatching Egg Sector – **Completion date anticipated by October 30, 2017**

Phase 2:

Options Development Phase

Approach:

- Review quarantine concept
- Review self-spiking options
- Develop a cost model for the removal of premise to premise spiking males for potential inclusion into the cost of production model

Expected Outcome:

- An evaluation of all options considered and the long term plan evaluation considering the Commission's strategic plan and the cost of production model.

Spiking Male Review

- Consultation of the long term plan by the Commission with its listed stakeholders.

Deliverables:

- An Industry update for stakeholder review and engagement – **Completion date anticipate January 30 , 2018**

Phase 3:

Engagement of Regulation, policy change or testing template requirements

Approach:

- Train Hatching Egg Producers on new expectations on movement of spiking males for the interim timeline.
- Work with Producers on the long term plan including possible grants and reserve fund opportunities

Expected Outcome:

- No spiking male movement between premises by year end 2020.

Deliverables:

- Implementation of Regulated movement and a long term plan established by April 2018.

Interim Steps for On Farm Biosecurity starting October 1, 2017 – which coincides with the start of “flu season”

- Monitoring of males for spiking purposes between premises while the Steering Committee works through the work action plan.

Interim Protocol Checklist:

1. Spiking Males Checklist must be completed and registered through the Commission Office.
2. Checklist must be dated with testing date, shipping date and expiry date.
3. Spiking males must originate from the same source flock.
4. Spiking males cannot exceed 30 weeks of age.
5. Males cannot be moved more than one than once for spiking purposes.
6. There must be a minimum of 14 days between spikes
7. Spiking Males must be sampled and tested with test results attached to the checklist application.
8. Testing of birds must include but is not limited to the following:
 1. Avian Influenza
 2. Salmonella Enteritis
 3. Coryza
9. Spiking males must be moved in the timeline outlined in the Checklist- Maximum of 10 days.
10. Spiking males must be moved in clean and disinfected crates¹.
11. Spiking males to be introduced into the lay house in a manner that reduces stress.
12. Spiking males must be easily identified and monitored.
13. Any unusual circumstances with the flock post spike must be reported to the Commission Office.

¹ <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/humane-transport/transport-requirements/eng/1363748532198/1363748620219>