

# BC BROILER HATCHING EGG COMMISSION

# JULY 2019 NEWSLETTER

## INDUSTRY STATISTICS

### YTD Hatchability

84.4%

### Average Lay Cycle End

58 weeks

### Average Breeder Price

Female: \$10.45

Male: \$14.04

### 2019 Audit Stats

Total Premises to Audit: 70

Premises Completed: 30

## Hatching Egg Tips

Better Male Management  
Increases Flock Fertility

[https://www.cobb-vantress.com/en\\_US/resource/articles/better-male-management-increases-flock-fertility/](https://www.cobb-vantress.com/en_US/resource/articles/better-male-management-increases-flock-fertility/)

## ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Please ensure that the Commission office has received the makes and models of your barn equipment, this is important to ensure we have the right placement numbers for this quota cycle.

## ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM – AUDITS AND RECORDS

The CHEP Animal Care Program Audits will begin in August 2019. The fillable version of the records will be available on the producer side of the website.

## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT EVENTS SURVEY

The B.C. Hatching Egg Producers and the Ministry of Agriculture are working together to develop business management learning events, tailored specifically for hatching egg producers. Your feedback is IMPORTANT. Please complete this short survey to let us know what topics would be of interest to you. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. All responses will remain strictly anonymous.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D2GTM8Z>

## SPIKING MALE UPDATE

See attached letter and supporting documents

## COMMISSION OBSERVER STATUS PARTICIPATION UPDATE

As large-scale decisions and considerations are being made about the short-and long-term future goals of the hatching eggs and chicken sectors, the Commission has decided that a larger base of perspectives would be helpful to draw from on a regular basis. As a result, the Commission is going to be inviting a stakeholder observer to attend some portions of their meetings. Most recently the representative was from the BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Association, that representative offered the Commission some valuable insight and their attendance was appreciated. If this trial proves successful, the Commission will consult regarding the possibility of adding a non-producer representative to the Commission membership similar to the Milk Board and Cranberry Commission.

## WESTERN HATCHERY - EGG OVERSUPPLY UPDATE

See attached memo from Stephanie Nelson, Executive Director

### Pricing Orders

Period	Live Chicken	Hatching Eggs	Saleable Chicks	Day-Old Broiler Chicks
A-152	1.659 \$/kg	544.00 ¢/doz	56.67 ¢/chick	75.60 ¢/chick
A-153	1.645 \$/kg	536.11 ¢/doz	55.84 ¢/chick	74.78 ¢/chick
A-154	1.629 \$/kg	532.52 ¢/doz	55.47 ¢/chick	74.41 ¢/chick
A-155	1.651 \$/kg	545.36 ¢/doz	56.81 ¢/chick	75.75 ¢/chick
A-156	1.645 \$/kg	551.34 ¢/doz	57.43 ¢/chick	76.37 ¢/chick
A-157	1.647 \$/kg	556.20 ¢/doz	57.94 ¢/chick	76.87 ¢/chick

### Production Cycles

Period	Start Date	End Date
A-152	Sep 2, 2018	Oct 27, 2018
A-153	Oct 28, 2018	Dec 22, 2018
A-154	Dec 23, 2018	Feb 16, 2019
A-155	Feb 17, 2019	Apr 13, 2019
A-156	Apr 14, 2019	Jun 8, 2019
A-157	Jun 9, 2019	Aug 3, 2019



July 5, 2019

Good afternoon,

Please find attached the proposed Spiking Male Farm Plan package that the BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission is considering putting into effect in order to mitigate the risks in transferring spiking males between premises.

The Spiking Male Farm Plan Package consists of two documents:

1. The Spiking Male Work Action Plan which has been updated to reflect the work of the Spiking Male Committee and the Commission; and
2. A Spiking Male Farm Plan form.

The purpose of the Spiking Male Farm Plan form is to inform the Commission of what each premises is doing to mitigate the risks involved with spiking male movement. The Commission's intention is to add this document to your annual updates along with your license and contact information.

Commission staff are continuing to investigate funding opportunities for producers who are still considering the option of building a spiking male facility. If you are still considering building and would like to be a part of the funding process, please advise Naylene at the office.

Please advise Commission Staff if you have any comments or concerns regarding the Spiking Male Farm Plan package.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Nelson".

Stephanie Nelson, Executive Director  
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission

Attach.

## Spiking Male Review: Work Action Plan

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### 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<sup>1</sup>

### 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

### Glossary of Terms:

- **Spiking:** Movement of males from lay house to lay house to increase fertility in a lay house
- **Spiking Male:** A male moved between premises from lay house to lay house for the purposes of spiking.
- **Lay house:** The Production area of a broiler breeder operation that houses both male and female birds
- **Pullet:** An immature female chicken
- **Male Pullet:** An immature male chicken

### 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.

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**  
**COMPLETED**

## **Phase 2:**

### ***Options Development Phase***

## **Approach:**

- Review quarantine concept
- Review self-spiking options

- Develop a cost model through a feasibility study for the removal of premise to premise spiking males for potential inclusion into the cost of production model

#### Expected Outcome:

- Consideration of the Spiking Male Steering Committee's recommendations to the Commission.
- An evaluation of all options considered and the long-term plan evaluation considering the Commission's strategic plan and the feasibility study report.
- Consultation of the long-term plan by the Commission with its listed stakeholders.
- Producer Farm Plan guidelines development

#### Deliverables:

- An Industry update for stakeholder review and engagement – **Completion date anticipate February 28, 2019 COMPLETED**

#### 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.
- Develop Producer Farm Plans to address long term mitigating strategies
- Compile Cost benefit analysis using the Feasibility study report.
- Work with Producers on the long-term plan including possible grants and reserve fund opportunities

#### Expected Outcome:

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

#### Deliverables:

- Implementation of Regulated movement and a long-term planning developed. - **Completion date anticipated July 1, 2019**

## Interim Steps for On Farm Biosecurity starting October 1, 2017

- 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 crates<sup>2</sup>.
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.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/humane-transport/transport-requirements/eng/1363748532198/1363748620219>

Producer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Producer Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Glossary of Terms

**Spiking Male:** A male moved between premises from lay house to lay house for the purposes of spiking

**Lay House:** The Production area of a broiler breeder operation that houses both male and female birds

**Spiking:** Movement of males from lay house to lay house to increase fertility in a lay house

**Pullet:** An immature female chicken

**Male Pullet:** An immature male chicken

**This form must be completed annually for office information purposes**

Criteria List – Ensure that you check off all that apply

### ***Do you use off-site males for spiking purposes?***

- **No**
  - I move males from my spiking male barn to my lay flock
  - I move males from lay flock to lay flock
  - I move males from a pullet barn to my lay flock
  - I move males from a pullet barn to my spiking male barn to my lay flock
  - **What is your back-up plan if you cannot spike on your own site, with your own birds?**
    - I will not spike at all
    - I will spike from offsite – please complete “Yes” section
- **Yes**
  - I register my spiking male movements with the Commission office
  - I ensure my spiking male registration is complete before submission
  - Every spike contains males from one source flock
  - My spiking males are less than 30 weeks of age at transfer



# Spiking Male Farm Plan 2019

## Yes – Continued

- My spiking males are only used in one lay house
- There is a minimum of 14 days between spikes
- My birds are tested for Avian Influenza, Salmonella Enteritidis, Coryza – completed test results are attached to the application<sup>1</sup>
- My spiking males are moved within 10 days of receiving my test results. If not, the birds will be re-tested.
- My spiking males are moved in clean and disinfected crates
- I introduce my spiking males in a low stress environment
- My spiking males are marked, and I monitor the flock post spike
- I report all unusual activity within my flock post spike to the Commission; and pay careful attention post spike.

Date	Name	Signature
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### -Office Use Only-

Date Commission Office received: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission Receiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission Receiver Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Plan Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff comments:

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission reserves the right to add diseases



## MEMO

**TO:** BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers  
**FROM:** Stephanie Nelson, Executive Director  
**DATE:** July 5, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Egg Oversupply Update

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Good afternoon,

The Commission met today to discuss the current oversupply situation at Western Hatchery and the stakeholder feedback from producers and the BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Association's ("BCBHEPA") correspondence on the matter. The Commission will respond to the BCBHEPA correspondence separately.

Commission staff attended Western Hatchery on Wednesday and toured the egg room. The supply issue is being resolved as both Commission and hatchery management have been working collaboratively to deal with the oversupply using the following actions:

1. All imports have been stopped at Western for several weeks;
2. Domestic eggs have been transferred up north to both Okanagan Hatchery and Farmcrest Hatchery;
3. Eggs have been transferred to another local hatchery;
4. Domestic eggs have been shipped to the breaker due to a fertility challenge. There was an equipment failure at Vanderpol's which created a bottle neck of eggs for several days which backed up breaking eggs. This has been resolved as of earlier this week;
5. Western Hatchery has reported that eggs rolled for six to seven days on their floor;
6. Since June 1, 2019, six flocks of over 10,000 birds have gone, or are very close to 58 weeks, which will alleviate some of the egg flow issue;
7. Kill dates remain at 58 weeks for the industry. Year-to-date, the average kill date is 58.08 weeks.

**Memo to BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers**  
**RE: Egg Oversupply Update**  
**July 5, 2019**

Commission staff and Western Hatchery have been in daily contact on the situation and have facilitated the breaking, moving and transferring of domestic production. The production team will be analyzing the end of flock life information in more detail, but initial reviews show we are still producing more eggs than forecasted, which compounded the supply issue.

During today's meeting the Commission also reviewed the Linkage and pricing discussion and recent developments as a result of a letter of instruction from BCFIRB.

Jim Collins, Commission Chair, will be circulating a letter of response and update to the producers and stakeholders by July 19, 2019. Pricing remains the Commission's key priority and a major commitment of Commission and staff resources.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Nelson', with a small flourish at the end.

Stephanie Nelson  
Executive Director