



May 15, 2020

All Hatching Egg Producers and Stakeholders

**RE: COVID-19 Update**

Dear Stakeholders,

It is my goal to keep you updated as the COVID-19 situation unfolds; it is volatile and changes very quickly, and your attention to these Friday updates is appreciated.

Staff has created a COVID-19 file on the producer side of the Commission website. All updates and information, inclusive of the sanitation checklists, are housed there. The producer sanitation checklist has been updated to reflect AgSafe recommendations, please ensure you are using the updated version.

Last week I received some preliminary information on the AgriRecovery/AgriStability programming and the ability to potentially access funding. The program is being reviewed. Please consider signing up as soon as possible for the AgriStability program because if you are not signed up, you may not be eligible. As things unfold, I will be able to use it to assist in the relief efforts for hatching egg producers.

AgriRecovery is working on the costs incurred by the Commission and AgriStability is developing a webinar for producers, specifically on individual producer costs and losses. The webinar date has been confirmed on May 27, 2020 at 1pm. Please ensure you, or a representative can attend on your behalf. Several producers reached out and inquired if their accountants and bank representatives could attend. I have confirmed with the coordinator that you may invite these representatives. The link for the session is below.

 [Webinar May 27, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.:](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5276906353321152784)  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5276906353321152784>

Commission staff and the BC Egg Hatchery Association are consulting weekly on egg flow and the impact to the processing age. The A-164 allocation (last 4 weeks of the period) will be reviewed by CFC on May 21 and A-165 is to be discussed in early June; further reductions are possible but hopefully unlikely as market indications seem to be improving. The allocation reduction resulted in a bottle neck at the hatcheries, with the hatcheries cooperation we seem to be through the most challenging time, rolling between 7-10 days this past week and further reduction of days on the floor anticipated. Commission staff continues to visit the hatcheries regularly.

The Egg Hatchery Association and Commission staff are working on the request to the hatcheries to limit imports to leave room for domestic production. The Commission is further supporting the hatcheries, the BC Government and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers in a request to Global Affairs Canada for the reduction of penalties associated with not bringing in all their import allotment. This penalty further complicates the reduction of imported product being brought in by the hatcheries. There has been no update on this matter yet.



The Superior Poultry plant has started processing again as of Wednesday May 13. Superior is running at half capacity and is not anticipating taking any fowl until early June. The Commission continues to redirect flocks to Sofina and/or render flocks until shackles are available.

The Commission plans to review the processing age and fowl compensation received by producers at the end of the year. At this time, producers are being compensated only for destroyed eggs. Under performing flocks are picked for destruction with inspection staff oversight. The first payments for eggs dumped or transferred were made today, May 15. Staff thank you for your patience as we worked through all the information to ensure accurate payment. Similar to transferred eggs, if your eggs were dumped due to COVID-19 you will receive a prepayment after 3 weeks at an equivalent saleable rate of 70% to aid in cash flow until we get closest hatch information from hatcheries. All these costs and losses are under review through the AgriStability and AgriRecovery programs.

The breaker plant situation remains unchanged and continues to limit the throughput of hatching eggs to the average weekly throughput experienced in 2019. We would like to send more eggs to the breaker, but this is an Egg Farmers of Canada national policy to avoid a surge of surplus hatching eggs going to breakers as there is not currently a market for them.

The Commission and the Chicken Board have created a "war cabinet" comprised of the two chairs, the two executive directors and two producers/national directors (Joe Neels and Ray Nickel). This group meets to discuss issues of concern to both boards. A hatchery and processor representative can be added when necessary and recently the group met with Blair Shier of Hallmark (and President of the Processors Association) to highlight some issues important to the hatching egg sector.

As well, the Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Director and Producer Association President are part of the 4 Feathers Group that meets every Friday to discuss COVID issues of concern to the BC poultry sector. BCPA, producer associations, processor, hatchery, government and BCFIRB representatives are also on the call.

The office remains closed and staff are working remotely. On-Farm work continues with the Producer's comfort level except for SE testing. SE is a human health risk and the testing must continue as a result. The On-Farm team is taking every precaution to ensure that we are maintaining the Public Health Authority social distancing and equipment standards. They are wearing masks and gloves on-site in addition to their regular Biosecurity attire. If producers do not want to attend the SE sampling please leave the barn door unlocked at the time of the test and leave the barn lights on. Staff will text when they have left the site.

Please email me directly with any questions or concerns on any of these matters.

Regards,

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

Stephanie Nelson, Executive Director  
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission

# **BCBHEC Daily Checklist for Producers in Response to COVID-19**

This is a daily checklist of screening and On-site practices for the health and safety of those who work here. This form is completed by the producers and signed off each day as complete. These forms are kept in a visible area in case someone on site becomes ill.

## **Screening Practices**

- **Monitor symptoms**
  - Example: employers can monitor common symptoms for each employee. Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or temperatures above 38 °C (100.4 °F) must not be at work.
- **Exposure**
  - Anyone in close contact with someone diagnosed or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 must not be at on-site, must remain in self-isolation for 14 days and follow public health protocols.
- **Travel**
  - If you have travelled, you must self-isolate for 14 days. This includes the barns and property.

## **On-site Practices**

**In addition to the mandated standards required by producer agencies and government regulators, farmers, employers and employees must follow best practices for limiting exposure on-site and ensure that all practices are well displayed and documented.**

- Discontinue all non-essential visits to farms.
- Essential visitors attending farms must sign into visitor log, wear biosecurity PPE, gloves and face mask.
- Necessary equipment, door handles, floors etc. that visitors touch should be disinfected after each appointment such as egg pickups, sawdust deliveries, feed deliveries etc.
- Egg collection stations should be disinfected after each collection and/or an employee change
- Employees should wear gloves and use a new pair for each activity: ex. Barn walk, egg collection, weighing birds etc. and wash hands frequently.
- Disinfect surfaces that are touched on a daily basis at the end of each day: ex. Door handles, equipment, egg sorting tables, counters etc.

## **Additional Resources**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)

Canadian Food Inspection Agency: [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)

Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)

Consult your provincial or territorial government's website regularly for additional regional guidance.

## **BCBHEC Daily Checklist for Producers in Response to COVID-19**

- Disinfect anteroom twice a day, this includes floors, tables, stairs, chairs, bathrooms and any surfaces that are touched on a daily basis

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

VERSION 2

### **Additional Resources**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)

Canadian Food Inspection Agency: [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca)

Public Health Agency of Canada: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)

Consult your provincial or territorial government's website regularly for additional regional guidance.

# Site Access Health Questionnaire (COVID-19)

## Guidelines:

**To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to reduce the potential risk of exposure to the workforce, please conduct this questionnaire, daily, at designated entry points, prior to accessing the site. This health screening applies to all who wish to gain entry to this site!**

Any person who refuses to answer screening questions will be denied access to our work locations – **without exception**. Complying with our safety measures is in the interest of maintaining worker safety and those choosing not to comply will **not** be permitted to work.

## Screening Setup Station

1. In order to protect the person conducting the screening, each person screening must wear at a minimum gloves, a mask and safety glasses.
2. A barrier (i.e. table, cones, etc.) must be in place to keep a distance between each person being screened and the person screening.
3. The line for people being screened must be a minimum of 2 meters away to ensure privacy between the person being screened and the person conducting the screening.
4. Each person in the line must be a minimum of 2 meters apart from each other.
5. As each person is ready for screening, they are to approach the barrier.

## Screening Process Questions

Workers should be asked these questions in a manner that respects their privacy. Please devise a process at your location where workers do not easily overhear of co-workers who voluntarily divulge personal medical information.

### Each person will be asked 5 questions:

1. Are you currently experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms? Such as;
  - New onset or worsening of existing cough
  - Fever (38°C or 100.4 F)
  - Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
  - Sore throat
  - Severe fatigue
  - Runny nose
  - Vomiting
2. Have you travelled to any countries outside Canada (including the United States) within the last 14 days?
3. Did you provide care or have close contact with a person with COVID-19 (probable or confirmed) while they were ill (cough, fever, sneezing, or sore throat) within the last 14 days?
4. Did you have close contact with a person who travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days who has become ill (cough, fever, sneezing, or sore throat)?
5. Have you or anybody in your home had contact with someone who is being tested for COVID-19 or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

**If the answer is YES to ANY of the above questions, please notify your supervisor and deny access to the individual requesting entry.**

**IMPORTANT:** Disinfect pens before sharing them between people. Have visitors file their own documents to avoid sharing paper. Consider asking these questions verbally to avoid sharing pens and documents. This must be done in a private area where their responses will not be overheard by co-workers.

This questionnaire is based on the BC Centre for Disease Control's COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool and WorkSafeBC Guidance.

DATE:		WORKER NAME	
EMPLOYER:		CONTACT PHONE #:	

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Are you experiencing any of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• New onset or worsening of cough or other symptoms</li> <li>• Sneezing/Running Nose</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Severe Fatigue</li> <li>• Vomiting</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Have you travelled to any countries outside Canada (including the United States) within the last 14 days?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Did you provide care or have close contact with a person with COVID-19 (probable or confirmed) while they were ill (cough, fever, sneezing, or sore throat) within the last 14 days?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Did you have close contact with a person who travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days who has become ill (cough, fever, sneezing, or sore throat)?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Have you or anybody in your home had contact with someone who is being tested for COVID-19 or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>



### COVID-19

- CHEP continues to host a weekly General Managers call, as well as an Executive Committee meeting.
- The National Poultry Group is also meeting three times a week plus additional meetings as necessary.
- AAFC has reduced its teleconferences on the impact of COVID-19 from daily to three times a week.
  - o On May 5, 2020 the Prime Minister made an announcement to support for the agriculture sector with the following initiatives (details of which are still being finalized):
    - \$77.5 million Emergency Processing Fund → helps food producers manage new challenges related to COVID-19 such as adaptation of health protocols, automation/modernization of facilities, respond to emerging pressures of the virus, etc. Some of this amount will be repayable..
    - AgriRecovery of up to \$125 million → focused on assisting producers with the extraordinary costs they must take on to recover from disastrous events, \$50 million of which is designated for beef and \$50 million for pork.
    - Surplus Food Purchase Program with an initial \$50 million fund → provides new funding to support food security needs and help manage surplus commodities that have resulted from COVID-19.
    - the intention to work with provinces and territories to increase interim AgriStability payments and an expansion of the AgriInsurance program.
  - o Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs)
    - Approximately 12,000 TFWs have entered Canada since April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, compared to the 13,000 that entered in April 2019.
    - 5,100 employers received an email invitation to apply for the new Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program (MISTFWP) to help support the costs of the mandatory quarantine period.
- The SM5 continues its partnership with the [Canada Takeout](#) campaign to encourage Canadians to order takeout to support their favourite local restaurant, meeting weekly to discuss how to engage in the campaign.
  - o The SM5 has been posting content through their social media platforms to encourage ordering takeout, especially for #TakeoutDay on Wednesdays.

- Producers from all groups within the SM5 will be featured in a video showcasing our support for the campaign.
- CHEP continues to participate in the weekly Public Safety Canada (PSC) cross-sector calls to discuss industry-wide impacts of COVID-19, sector needs, and actions taken by government.
  - Major activities to date include monitoring of personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages to inform the federal government's actions on PPE, and information sharing with respect to re-opening and re-entry guidelines across all sectors.
  - According to the survey, small enterprises (less than 250 employees) face the largest challenge in procuring PPE due to logistical challenges related to access and delivery.
  - Access to PPE and sanitization products remains a key challenge. It was noted that PPE should be considered the last line of defence after physical distancing, hygiene and other mitigation methods as recommended by Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) guidance.
  - The Public Health Agency of Canada will be updating its guidance on the use of non-medical masks in community settings.
  - Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) and PHAC have entered an agreement for CCOHS to act as an information sharing hub for guidance and fact sheets regarding workplace settings: [Pandemic Info Share](#)

### Other Meetings

- Aubrie hosted an ACP producer education presentation with pullet growers and specialty producers with BC on Zoom on May 6.
- CHEP participated in the Canadian AMR One Health Network Project survey on AMU/AMR activities. More information is available [here](#).
- CHEP participated in the Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition (CSCFSC) videoconference annual general meeting (AGM) on May 12. The Coalition continues to assess options for the food safety risk management toolkit workshop which was postponed due to the pandemic.
- The CFIA [notice to industry](#) on the extension of consultation on changes to the *Hatchery Regulations* to September 30, 2020 was circulated.

[View this email in your browser](#)



# BCAC Member Update

## Top Story: COVID-19 Impact on Agriculture



BCAC's focus during the COVID-19 pandemic has primarily been on getting temporary workers to Canada as safely and effectively as possible, while also working with our national counterpart, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) to gain federal support for Canadian producers to access.

### **Write you MP**

CFA has created a very easy to use form on their website to send a personalized message to your local MP requesting support for Canada's food industry. Please share this

information with your respective members and networks to help emphasize the importance of Canadian agriculture to our federal government. [Click here to write your MP](#)

### **Funding Announced**

Last week [the federal government announced \\$252-million in funding](#) for the sector. In contrast, the ask by CFA was for the federal government to provide an Agriculture and Agri-Food Emergency Fund of \$2.6 billion to help maintain food security in Canada. At less than 10% of our ask, overall the announcement was disappointing for industry. Stan Vander Waal, BCAC President did a number of media interviews on this topic following the announcement. Click the links below to listen to some of the clips:

- [Listen to the CKNW interview on The Jill Bennett Show](#)
- [Listen to the CBC interview on BC Today with Michelle Eliot](#)

### **Campaign Video - Please Share**

CFA has also created [a video](#) in support of the federal campaign (features B.C. farmer, Deep Brar along with others from across Canada). Please share on your social media channels and with your networks.

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### **Stakeholder Engagement Update:**



**April 16** - BCAC, IAFBC and Ag Safe AGMs

**April 22** - BC Pork AGM

**May 5-9** - BC Greenhouse Veggie Days  
*(Cancelled)*

**May 6** - BC Poultry Symposium *(Postponed)*

**May 28-30** - BC Cattlemen's Association  
AGM *(Cancelled)*

### **Coming Up:**

- BC Cattlemen's Association AGM (May 28-30) (*Cancelled*)

Missing a date? Email [communications@bcac.ca](mailto:communications@bcac.ca) to let us know!

## Public Trust:



## Participate in Current Initiatives

There are a number of initiatives being led by agri-food stakeholders that you can join to help share positive messages and stories about those who grow and produce our food. [Click here for more info](#)

## Industry Updates:



## Seasonal Worker Updates

For any news or updates relating to temporary foreign workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit the [WALI website](#). To receive timely and relevant email updates, [subscribe here](#).



## BCAC Annual Report

The 2019 BCAC Annual Report is now available on our [website](#). Thank you to everyone that took the time to attend our virtual AGM on April 16th.



## Minimum Wage Increase

BCAC has confirmed with the Province that the minimum wage increase (to \$14.60) will proceed on June 1st as scheduled. For piece rates, the status quo will continue for the foreseeable future.



## EFP/BMP Funding

Funding for the Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program **opened on April 6, 2020**. Funding is still available in certain categories. Due to COVID-19 precautions, applications will only be accepted by **email** or **fax**. Details on how to apply are available **here**.

**DOWNLOAD HUB CONNECT:**






**Resources at your fingertips**

Access a network of community resources to help international farm workers.

The App contains information on regional services such as: health care provision, consular information and important contacts, in addition to agriculture-specific resources.

- Regional specific resources
- Available in English and Spanish\*
- Downloadable information
- Able to be used offline

\*Dependent on your phone language selection. By default all the information is in English.

## HUB Connect Now Available

The app for employers and seasonal workers is now live in B.C.! Access centralized information at your fingertips.

- Regional specific resources
- Available in English and Spanish
- Able to be used offline

[Click for more info](#) on HUB Connect.



## Buy BC E-Commerce Funding

New e-commerce funding is available to help farmers and food and beverage processors overcome lost sales due to the COVID-19 pandemic by moving their products online. Buy BC is providing \$300,000 to support industry-led e-commerce activities. Applications will open May 15. **More info**.



## Online Employment Portal

Agriculture and Agri-food Canada has launched an [online employment portal](#) to provide links to resources for job seekers who are interested in working on farms, in distribution, food processing, and other related occupations. Resources include national and regional employment websites, and information on skills and training.



## New AgriStability Deadline

The enrolment deadline for the 2020 AgriStability program has been extended until July 3 to help producers cope with current market disruptions. More information on the program and application available [here](#).

## Farmer ID Card Feature Discount:



## Work N Play - Chilliwack

[Work N Play - Chilliwack](#) is open with limited hours for all the hard working essential workers in need of clothing and footwear. Show your Farmer ID Card at the time of purchase to receive the 10% your purchase. Get details on this offer plus all the current cardholder discounts and savings [here](#).

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## AgSafe BC

*Sponsor Spotlight*



**Injury Management**

Contact AgSafe for online and on-site injury management resources to build a program that works for your workplace.

**Preventing Injuries  
Minimizing Impact  
Encouraging Worker Health & Wellbeing**

1-877-533-1789  
AgSafeBC.ca/Tools/Return-to-Work

**AgSafe**  

### AgSafe Injury Management Resources

There are indirect or hidden costs for employers related to worker injury that are important to consider. Costs are challenging to measure as they are dependent on individual circumstances and organizational resources.

Having an injury management program in your workplace will have a positive impact not only on your bottom line, but also demonstrates to your workforce that you are invested in their recovery and well-being.

Conducting risk assessments will help determine if control measures are needed to eliminate or minimize the risk of injury.

AgSafe has injury prevention and management resources on our website, and our Regional Safety Consultants and Advisors are available to help you with specific health and safety concerns.

[Learn More](#)

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### Don't forget to share your industry news and events with us!

We're happy to share our members' industry related information on our website. Feel free to [contact](#) our communications team.



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# Workplace Safety

Over the next few weeks many sectors, including Agriculture, are encouraged to make plans and establish protocols on how they can operate safely in line with Public Health and Safety Guidelines. WorkSafeBC and the Ministry of Agriculture will work with industry associations to ensure the direction and guidance they provide to their members meets the requirements set out by the Provincial Health Officer. Individual businesses will need to ensure their own plans align with these sectoral plans. For more details, visit [www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc](http://www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc)

Information from WorkSafeBC regarding the need to establish an exposure plan and what that plan should entail:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation>

Information from WorkSafeBC specific to the Ag Sector:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-industry-information/agriculture>

Questions regarding establishing an exposure plan can be directed to WorkSafe BC at 1.888.621.SAFE

# E-Commerce Funding Program

Please see the following link for the press release regarding this program

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AGRI0017-000857>

Program details:

**1. Eligible Applicants**

- Farmers and food processors of all sizes that are located in BC, who qualify for the Buy BC logo, and have at least two years of business revenues.

**2. Eligible Activities:**

- Costs associated with e-commerce website
- Fees associated with listing products with existing e-commerce platforms
- Fees associated with on-line payment systems for e-commerce
- Packaging materials for product shipping and related shipping costs, to a maximum of \$2,000
- Costs associated with directly marketing/advertising the availability of the applicants products on an e-commerce website or platform, to a maximum of \$1,000

**3. Funding Limits/Ratios Per Applicant:**

- Up to \$5k available per applicant
- Cost-shared ratio of 75/25, with in-kind contributions being eligible towards total project costs (AGRI contributing 75% and applicant contributing 25% either in cash or in-kind).

**4. Application Process:**

- Applicants can apply directly on the IAF website here: <https://iafbc.ca/buy-bc/buy-bc-partnership-program-e-commerce-funding-stream/>.

**5. Program Budget:**

- \$300k