BC BROILER HATCHING EGG COMMISSION

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

INDUSTRY STATISTICS

YTD Hatchability

83.5 %

Average Lay Cycle End

55 weeks

Average Breeder Price

Female: $10.96

Male: $14.75

2020 Audit Stats

Total Premises to Audit: 57

Premises Completed: 53 / 57

Hatching Egg Tip

Click the link below to read up on helpful information about preparing your breeder flock for top performance.

https://www.cobb-vantress.com/en_US/articles/prepare-breeder-flocks-for-top-performance/

BC CHICKEN SECTOR PRICING REVIEW

Please see the following link for current updates on the BC Chicken Sector Pricing Review.
http://bcchickensectorpricingreview.com/

CANADIAN POULTRY RESEARCH COUNCIL

Please see the attached articles from Canadian Poultry Research Council.

BIOSECURITY STATUS UPDATE

Please see the attached letter from the BC Poultry Association

CHEP ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM PRODUCER MANUAL FEEDBACK

Please see the attached feedback form from the On-Farm staff.

WORK SAFE BC: ARE YOU READY FOR AN INSPECTION?

Please see the following link for COVID-19 updates on the Work Safe BC website.
https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/health-and-safety

THE IMPACT OF CPTPP ON PRODUCERS

Please see the attached letter and link from CHEP
https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/11/government-of-canada-announces-investments-to-support-supply-managed-dairy-poultry-and-egg-farmers.html

EUROPEAN NATIONS STEP UP AVIAN FLU OUTBREAK RESPONSES

Please find the attached letter from BC Poultry Association regarding the current AI siutation in Europe

THE CPRC LAUNCHED NEW WEBSITE FOR CPRC RESEARCH

Please see the attached link from CPRC for their new website regarding current research projects.
poultrysciencecluster.ca

BCBHEC STAFF CHANGES

We would like to welcome Mariah Schuurman to the Hatching Egg team. Mariah is joining us as the new Production Coordinator. Mariah's contact information is: production@bcbhec.com or 604-850-1854 ext. 109

COVID19 OFFICE UPDATE:

Due to COVID-19 office staff are on working from home and in the office on rotation and we are not accepting visitors at the office. It is best to email the staff member you are trying to reach so they may follow up. We appreciate your patience during this time.

Pricing Orders

Period	Live Chicken	Hatching Eggs	Saleable Chicks	Day-Old Broiler Chicks
A-161	1.694 $/kg	600.92 ¢/doz	62.55 ¢/chick	81.49 ¢/chick
A-162	1.694 $/kg	602.95 ¢/doz	62.76 ¢/chick	81.70 ¢/chick
A-163	1.697 $/kg	605.64 ¢/doz	63.03 ¢/chick	81.97 ¢/chick
A-164	1.707 $/kg	610.09 ¢/doz	63.49 ¢/chick	82.43 ¢/chick
A-165	1.684 $/kg	608.26 ¢/doz	63.30 ¢/chick	82.24 ¢/chick
A-166	1.690 $/kg	617.98 ¢/doz	64.31 ¢/chick	83.25 ¢/chick

Production Cycles

Period	Start Date	End Date
A-161	Jan 19, 2020	Mar 14, 2020
A-162	Mar 15, 2020	May 9, 2020
A-163	Mar 10, 2020	Jul 4, 2020
A-164	Jul 5, 2020	Aug 29, 2020
A-165	Aug 30, 2020	Oct 24, 2020
A-166	Oct 25, 2020	Dec 19, 2020

Immune-boosting options show promise for AI protection

Shayan Sharif

The parallels between the current covid-19 pandemic and past avian influenza (AI) outbreaks are not lost on Shayan Sharif. "In any pandemic, swift and measured actions are needed to contain and control the imminent spread. When a vaccine is available, the options change. And when a vaccine can be made more effective, progress is made," says Sharif, associate dean of research and graduate studies at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) at the University of Guelph.

Sharif led a multi-year research project looking at novel ways to prevent future AI outbreaks by boosting the immune response of the bird. The premise was that if the bird's own immune system can rally to work in concert with a vaccine, then the level of disease protection provided will be stronger and more effective.

With no commercial AI vaccine currently available in Canada – and culling the only "treatment" option – the push for effective ways to protect birds is desperately needed. That's where some of Sharif's latest research comes in. He looked at immune-enhancing activities to protect birds against AI. His research holds promise for a solution for Canadian poultry producers to prevent AI. It also offers vital insights into technology that can boost a bird's own immune system to be better equipped to fight off AI and other diseases.

Testing the potential of PAMPs

Sharif's research looked at two avenues for helping birds build a stronger defence against disease, particularly AI. The first part of the study looked at how PAMPs – pathogen associated molecular patterns – could be used to boost immune response.

PAMPs are naturally-occurring microbes that have been extensively studied for more than 20 years. They act as an adjuvant (or immune booster) and can be used with a vaccine or on their own to trigger a stronger response in birds. When PAMPs are used with a vaccine, the vaccine must be a killed form, and that poses some challenges for the route of administration. Killed vaccines don't always induce enough immune response on their own, and are most effective when injected – an impractical proposition in poultry production.

The search for a better solution led Sharif to nanoparticles as an effective carrier to administer killed vaccines with or without PAMPs.

> "If many of the poultry vaccines we use could be packaged in nanoparticles, we could deliver better efficacy."

"Nanoparticles are like tiny cages that can carry vaccine and PAMP molecules directly to target cells in the bird – respiratory or intestinal in the case of AI," says Sharif. "They have been shown to boost the efficacy of vaccines and PAMPs, and are an effective vehicle for penetrating and integrating into target cells faster and more directly, delivering a better immune response for the bird."

Sharif's team searched for a PAMP that could deliver the best immunity. "We identified PAMPs with varying degrees of potency and efficacy, and found one called CpG – which is microbial DNA – was the best for efficacy and immune response."

Sharif's work confirmed that nanoparticles work well to boost immune response and reduce virus shedding in birds. "There is a lot of promise for nanoparticles and vaccines in poultry and in people," says Sharif. "In fact it's a technology that is being investigated in the current work on a coronavirus vaccine."

Adenovirus as effective delivery vector

The second technology investigated for boosting immune response was the use of adenovirus as a biological carrier for AI vaccine. Sharif's colleague Eva Nagy, avian virologist at OVC, led the team that discovered the efficacy of two particular adenoviruses as potential vehicles for delivering the vaccine antigen for AI and a variety of other vaccines.

> "My hope is that in the near future we will be able to use vectors like adenovirus to carry bits and pieces of AI virus to be used as a vaccine."

Adenovirus works as a vector or delivery vehicle for vaccine. "A vector is like a car that can carry different passengers. In this case, an adenovirus vector may carry the key genes of avian influenza virus that when given to a chicken could confer immunity against the virus," says Sharif. Through the course of this research project, adenovirus 4 and 9 were licensed and commercialized with a Mexican vaccine company. While there has yet to be a commercial application for Canadian poultry producers, the opportunity is there. "My hope is that in the near future we will be able to use vectors like adenovirus to carry bits and pieces of AI virus to be used as a vaccine," says Sharif. The technology also has potential as a carrier for Newcastle and infectious bronchitis vaccines.

The commercialization question

Sharif knows nanotechnology holds tremendous promise for the Canadian poultry industry as a way to package killed vaccines. "If many of the poultry vaccines we use could be packaged in nanoparticles, we could deliver better efficacy," says Sharif. "And if we can commercialize adjuvants like PAMPs we can further enhance the immunity caused by vaccines." And the routine use of nasal vaccines in Canada gives Sharif confidence that the nanotechnology would be an effective means to administer AI protection.

The hope for Sharif is getting the technology to market. Commercialization wasn't part of this research project but the goal is to get it to market because of the tremendous potential it shows as an effective option for dealing with AI protection.

An exciting part of Sharif's work on nanoparticles is that it doesn't start and stop with protecting birds against another AI pandemic. It has potential for Newcastle, infectious bronchitis, Marek's disease, Campylobacter and *Clostridium perfringens* – the latter microbe being the causal agent for necrotic enteritis.

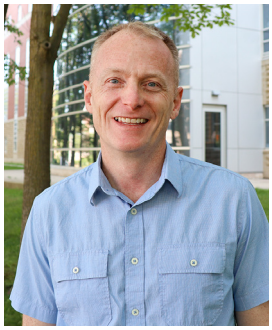
For Sharif, the big question is how to move this work forward. "This is an open avenue for commercialization opportunities and I wish there were more options already available for Canadian poultry producers because we know that pandemics are a certainty. We can't let our guard down. Influenza could have a comeback and we have to be ready."

Sharif's research was funded by the Canadian Poultry Research Council as part of the Poultry Science Cluster 2 which was supported by AAFC as part of Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Additional funding was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Canada's First Research Excellence Funds.

Ventilation at a cost

Research looks at how new tools impact air quality on poultry operations

Air quality can be difficult to manage in Canadian poultry operations because two main challenges – ammonia levels and particulate matter – are often at opposite ends of the ventilation spectrum. Ammonia, which typically builds up when poultry manure in litter stays wet, can be alleviated by drying it out through better ventilation. But drier conditions – along with natural bird activities such as dust bathing – contribute to more particulate matter in the air, an issue the World Health Organization ranks among its top environmental issues.



Bill Van Heyst

Bill Van Heyst, professor of environmental engineering in the School of Engineering at the University of Guelph, says each type of poultry operation has its unique environmental challenges, and there are a number of tools available to help balance acceptable levels of ammonia and particulate matter in barns.

"Producers are interested in trying new things to save on costs, and anecdotally we hear they are noticing improvements in air quality and other factors," says Van Heyst. "It's important to study these practices so we understand what the implications down the road will be – does it make sense environmentally as well?"

In 2017 and 2018, Van Heyst's team conducted the first scientific study to evaluate the impact of a centralized heat exchanger (Clima+ 200), installed for use under minimum ventilation conditions, had on the air quality within a broiler chicken facility.

"Heat exchangers were coming in from Europe, and broiler producers were using them to recover some of the heat that is typically exhausted at the start of a cycle," says Van Heyst. "Early adopters were using them, and anecdotal evidence suggested they were reducing ammonia production.

Van Heyst's research examines how various options available to Canadian poultry producers impact air quality, taking factors such as barn size, age and design into account.

We were able to scientifically assess air quality levels in their barns, compared to the baseline we had built up over years of research."

The team sampled four crops of broilers with detailed ammonia and particulate matter measurements taken along with litter samples. They found that in comparison to similar Ontario broiler facilities, the centralized air exchange system does control ammonia emissions better, but at the cost of higher particulate matter emissions.

Each type of poultry operation has its unique environmental challenges, and there are a number of tools available to help balance acceptable levels of ammonia and particulate matter in barns.

"Typically newer barns are getting centralized heat exchangers," he says. "Older barns tend to be leakier, and when you do a heat exchange, they're losing heat through walls that may not be insulated as well as they could have been. For older barns, there's probably better bang for your buck if you're looking to save energy."

Van Heyst's team continues to build air quality base information on other poultry flocks, including turkeys, layers and broiler breeders. He notes as Canada's egg industry transitions from battery housing to cage-free systems, there is important work to be done to understand the environmental implications in barns.

"With cage-free systems and lower stocking densities, producers need to look at the entire structure to make sure that ventilation and heating is appropriate."

"A lot of barns are being retrofitted, but that's not always the best option," says Van Heyst. "Some older barns may not have heaters because with higher stocking densities, the birds would heat it themselves. With cage-free systems and lower stocking densities, producers need to look at the entire structure to make sure that ventilation and heating is appropriate."

As his team continues to do the baseline work for various poultry operations, he says they're building important data to allow them to test what technologies have the best environmental impact.

"We need to keep doing the baseline work so we can scientifically prove what technologies make the most environmental and economic sense as an industry, together," Van Heyst says.

Van Heyst's research was funded by the Canadian Poultry Research Council as part of the Poultry Science Cluster 2 which was supported by AAFC as part of Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Additional funding was provided by Egg Farmers of Canada, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) / University of Guelph Partnership Agreement, and the School of Engineering, University of Guelph.

Phages show promising potential to improve safety of poultry products

Bacteria "eaters" are antimicrobial option to reduce the risk of key foodborne pathogens

Campylobacter and *Salmonella* continue to top the list of troublesome foodborne pathogens in Canada. They live in the intestines of many food producing animals, including poultry, and commonly contaminate raw meat products during slaughtering and processing. An Ontario researcher is looking at bacteriophage – bacteria "eaters" – viruses that specifically attack target bacteria to improve food safety that could reduce the use of conventional antimicrobials.

Dr. Hany Anany, research scientist, Guelph Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

There are many points along the path from farm to table where contamination can occur. "Research clearly indicates that cross contamination during processing and chilling steps is taking place and represents a significant food safety risk during poultry processing," says Dr. Hany Anany, research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and lead investigator on a three-year research project looking at the use of bacteriophage to reduce the risk of foodborne pathogen contamination on poultry products during processing.

New interventions needed

Studies over the last decade at provincial and federally inspected poultry processing plants confirm the ongoing issue of pathogen contamination, and highlight the need for new strategies and tools to reduce the risk and improve overall food safety. An Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) study looked at the prevalence of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in broilers at processing plants and found the pathogens were more prevalent after chilling (including rinsing), compared to when live birds arrived at the plant.

A study at federally inspected plants in Canada had similar findings, examining the prevalence of the pathogens in whole carcasses and cut-up chicken parts. The National Microbiological Baseline Study (2012-2013) reported that *Salmonella* showed up on 16.9% of whole carcasses and 29.6% of cut-up parts, *Campylobacter* was on 27.4% of whole carcasses and 39% of cut-up parts.

"There is clear evidence that *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* are ongoing and unresolved challenges for the poultry industry and Canadian consumers."

Anany has been studying the use of phages as a way to mitigate the risk of different foodborne pathogens to improve food safety for the past 16 years. "There is clear evidence that *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* are ongoing and unresolved challenges for the poultry industry and Canadian consumers," he says. "We need to explore various innovative and cost-effective interventions that can be applied during processing to reduce the pathogen burden without affecting the quality of the final poultry product." He is partway through a research project to use phages – a green, environmentally- friendly technology – as a novel antimicrobial option during poultry processing. His research – with funding through the Canadian Poultry Research Council's poultry science cluster – is exploring the use of bacteriophages during poultry carcass chilling and packaging as a novel new way to control *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* contamination.

The promise of phages

Lytic phages are bacterial viruses designed to only infect a specific host – e.g. *Campylobacter* or *Salmonella* – to disrupt the pathogen's regular metabolism and effectively kill it. Several studies have shown the efficiency of phages to control the growth of different bacterial pathogens.

"Phages are a promising antimicrobial intervention that could be used before, during and after the water-based chilling step of poultry product processing," says Anany. "Although phages aren't yet being used in the poultry industry, post-chill use shows promise."

In Canada and the U.S., some phage products have been approved and are used during food processing and on ready-to-eat food products. Phages can be implemented at various stages of the food chain," says Anany. "I see phages as one of the available tools we can use to mitigate the bacterial pathogen risk. We need to include phages as part of the hurdle technology to improve food safety through alternative antimicrobial options. And we have to understand the biology of phages and host interaction to implement them at the right stage of the processing chain using appropriate application approaches (encapsulation, spraying, immersion) to ensure their efficacy."

> "I see phages as one of the available tools we can use to mitigate the bacterial pathogen risk."

Anany's research is looking at two application approaches of phages – free and immobilized – at two critical points during poultry processing, as a means to improve food safety without impacting the quality of the poultry products.

"Free" phages can be applied to whole carcasses and cut-up parts by dipping or spraying a phage suspension before packaging to significantly reduce contamination of target pathogens – *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in this case – in the final consumer product.

"Immobilized" phages could be used in the absorbent pads within poultry product packaging to further minimize contamination during the product's shelf life. "Phage-based bioactive packaging would be a controlled release to ensure added phages would be able to tackle any existing and post-processing contamination during the shelf life of the product. This would extend product shelf life and improve food safety while maintaining the quality of the packaged food, including poultry products," says Anany.

Commercial potential

While phages are not currently used in poultry production in Canada, Anany believes this is because cost may be the biggest barrier for poultry processors. "It would be ideal if there was an integrated production system that includes phages throughout the production chain from farm to retail. Phages could be added to feed and water for poultry on the farm, sprayed before and during processing and in absorbent pads for in-store packaging." Anany also points to the need for more, large scale experiments to support results found at the laboratory level.

Anany's research began by screening poultry samples from commercial processing facilities to isolate *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* specific bacteriophages. "We already have some promising phage candidates to be used in biocontrol experiments," he says. "Our hope is to ultimately deliver a cost-effective and environmentally-friendly strategy for commercial processing poultry facilities to help mitigate two of the top foodborne pathogens – improving safety of whole carcasses and cut-up parts without compromising food quality."

Anany's research is funded by the Canadian Poultry Research Council as part of the Poultry Science Cluster which is supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as part of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Additional funding has been provided by Maple Leaf Foods and Exceldore Foods.

The fresh factor

Research suggests clean air, and litter, matter to poultry

Air quality is a common concern on Canadian poultry operations, due mainly to ammonia emissions from manure. But until recently, scientists had little understanding of how exposure to manure and manure gas impacts the health and behaviour of poultry flocks.

Alexandra Harlander

Professor Alexandra Harlander, Department of Animal Biosciences, University of Guelph, embarked on a variety of experiments to improve her team's understanding of poultry birds' behavioural preferences toward manure and manure gas. Her study is the first of its kind to provide important insights into these behavioural preferences.

"In general, farm animals are kept on litter substrate that, over time, becomes increasingly soiled, leading to the production of manure gas," says Harlander, who holds the Burnbrae Farms Professorship in Animal Welfare. "We know herbivores and large ruminants avoid foraging in the dung areas, and some wild birds develop strategies to avoid feces in their nests. We wanted to know – do chickens and turkeys differentiate between ammoniated and non-ammoniated environments? And how does exposure to ammonia affect natural behaviours such as foraging?"

Harlander's team worked with the school of engineering at the University of Guelph (Professor Bill Van Heyst) to develop a high-tech environmental chamber for accurate gas measurements. They produced manure gas in various concentrations, using naturally sourced and artificially sourced ammonia, and allowed birds access to a foraging area containing raisins, mealworms and feed mix.

While all birds demonstrated a preference for fresh air, Harlander says they could also discriminate between artificially and naturally sourced ammonia. She suggests the presence of other gases from excreta samples may have acted as a more familiar stimulus.

"Laying hens in particular were more likely to forage for longer periods in naturally sourced ammonia," says Harlander.

She notes birds have sensitive respiratory systems, and high ammonia is irritating to their eyes, nose and lungs. "Extremely high ammonia levels are a stressor for animals, and in poultry it can trigger feather pecking," she says.

To assess bird preferences for litter substrates, Harlander's team offered a variety of options, including fresh litter, soiled litter, litter that had been treated to reduce ammonia content and no litter substrate. Laying hens did not express a preference for any litter, but Harlander says when it came to litter versus no litter, litter won out.

"All the birds were interested in foraging," says Harlander. "They avoided barren areas where there was no litter available to them."

Hen houses used in Harlander's research were covered verandas where birds were kept inside in an aviary, but had access to fresh air.

Harlander says another strategy to manage ammonia production in laying hens is through diet. Her team tested behaviour and cognitive abilities of birds fed various diets, including low protein/high energy diets thought to reduce ammonia in excrement. They found no cognitive differences between birds fed various rations.

"Additionally, we wanted to see if a high or low protein diet had an impact on the birds' excretive composition, and also how it impacted liver metabolism," says Harlander. "Birds bred for production are very young and they have high metabolisms, and all of the birds we tested had liver problems, no matter what their diet."

"All birds are interested in foraging, and they avoided barren areas where there was no litter available to them."

She notes birds' livers are fragile, and fatty liver is a condition that is common among poultry raised in commercial housing systems as well as backyard chickens. The condition can lead to bleeding and sudden death.

Harlander's work in this area began with investigating the impact of ammonia on animal welfare of laying hens and continued with follow-up studies on broiler chickens and turkeys. The results they observed in laying hens were consistent in turkeys and broilers. All birds studied expressed a preference for naturally-produced ammonia, and laying hens foraged more in the clean litter. And, while nitrogen-reduced diets did not impact their behavioural or cognitive abilities, all birds studied – regardless of diet – showed signs of liver damage. She sees further opportunities for similar studies in other species, including animals in laboratory settings and small animals in home settings.

"An animal's environment – when air conditions and housing are acceptable – makes a difference," says Harlander. "In the case of poultry, stressors lead to feather pecking, irritation, cannibalism and mortalities. By giving them conditions they prefer, we remove some of those stressors."

Harlander's research was funded by the Canadian Poultry Research Council as part of the Poultry Science Cluster 2 which was supported by AAFC as part of Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

Heightened Biosecurity "Yellow"

These measures are in addition to your "Green" biosecurity procedures[1] and should be applied when there is a heightened disease risk or other threats in your region within BC.

Controlled Access Zone (CAZ)

- CAZ barrier should be closed at all times
- Restrict CAZ access to all unnecessary vehicles
- Establish a parking area outside of your CAZ
- Implement an "Essential Visitors Only" policy
- Avoid contact with all other avian (bird) and porcine (swine) species
- Avoid contact with all other poultry operations
- No mortalities and cull eggs to leave premise except on recommendation of a governing body (i.e. board/commission, veterinary, CFIA etc.)

Restricted Access Zone (RAZ)

- Keep doors locked at all times when the building is not occupied by personnel
- Closely monitor flock health for decreased feed and water intake, increased mortality, and unusual behaviour. Report any of the above to your Veterinarian and commodity board
- Clean and disinfect traffic area and access points after each egg pick up
- Minimize contact between commercial poultry and wild birds & wild bird droppings

Equipment

- All equipment and materials related to the production of poultry that enter or leave the CAZ, regardless of size or use, must be clean and disinfected

[1] These are not all of the BC Biosecurity Program requirements; please refer to your producer manual for more information. Note if your commodity's On-Farm Food Safety Program requires more stringent biosecurity measures please follow them instead. The measures above are minimum requirements.

Request for feedback on the CHEP ACP – Producer Manual

Section	Current text (please include page and requirement number)	Suggested change	Reason for change
Introduction			
On-Farm Audit			
Glossary			
Audit Instructions			
Farm Audit Cover Sheet			
Audit Checklist			
1. Personnel Knowledge and Skills			
3. Broiler Breeder Housing and Environment			

Section	Current text (please include page and requirement number)	Suggested change	Reason for change
Audit Checklist			
4. Broiler Breeder Feed and Water			
5. Flock Health Management			
6. Broiler Breeder Husbandry Practices			
7. Transportation			
8. Euthanasia			
9. Mass Depopulation			

Section	Current text (please include page and requirement number)	Suggested change	Reason for change
Records			
Code of Conduct + Personnel Knowledge and Skills			
Stocking Density			
Feeders and Waterers			
Nests			
Flock Check			
Emergency Contact List			
Backup Power Test Log			

Additional comments:

Chicken Farmers of Canada
Les Producteurs de poulet du Canada
1610 – 50 rue O'Connor Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 6L2

Egg Farmers of Canada
Les Producteurs d'œufs du Canada
21 rue Florence Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 0W6

Turkey Farmers of Canada
Les Éleveurs de dindon du Canada
202 – 7145 avenue W Credit Avenue
Mississauga, ON L5N 6J7

Canadian Hatching Egg Producers
Les Producteurs d'œufs d'incubation du Canada
21 rue Florence Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 0W6

Poultry and egg farmers welcome the federal government's announcement

OTTAWA, November 28, 2020 - Canada's 4,700 egg and poultry farmers appreciate today's announcement of investment programs and market development initiatives to offset the impact of market losses from the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). This investment in our sectors is a step in the right direction towards supporting farmers as they make ongoing improvements to their operations and enhance the long-term efficiency and sustainability of their farms. It will also help maintain economic activity in rural and urban communities across Canada.

Egg Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers thank The Honourable Minister Bibeau and her team for championing poultry and egg farmers. We look forward to working with officials on the development and implementation of these programs and initiatives in the coming months.

Canada's poultry and egg farmers have lost a significant portion of their domestic market and stand to suffer losses of billions in net operating income because of the CPTPP, which entered into force in December 2018. Today's announcement draws on the work of the poultry working group, which assessed the impact of the agreements on our respective sectors and put forward recommendations in April 2019. These measures will allow farmers to plan for the future, navigate the unique dynamics of our respective industries, and contribute to Canada's goals of growing our agricultural sector.

While today's announcement is about the impact of CPTPP on our sectors, our farmers have also suffered significant market losses as a result of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). We look forward to working with government officials to assess CUSMA support measures.

Egg Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers are the voice of farmers in Canada's supply-managed poultry and egg sectors. We are a stabilizing force in rural Canada and a part of Canada's economic solution, contributing $11.1 billion to the GDP and supporting over 144,000 jobs.

European nations step up avian flu outbreak responses

By Chris Scott on 11/30/2020

Belgium, Norway and the United Kingdom all reported outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the last week, prompting local officials to take additional measures to stem the spread of the contagious virus.

Belgium confirmed an outbreak of the H5N5 avian influenza at a poultry farm near the border of France, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) reported. The outbreak killed 600 birds and sparked the culling of an additional 151,000 birds at the farm, OIE said in a news alert.

Belgium dealt with eight previous incidents over the course of 2020, starting in mid-February, the international agency reported.

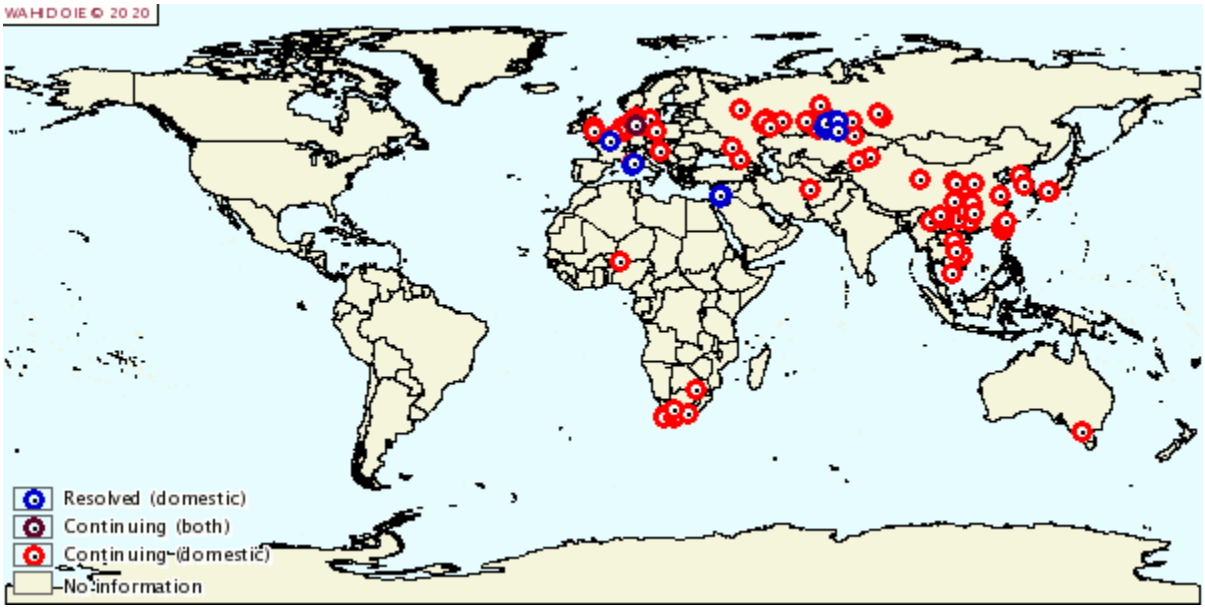
Meanwhile, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority ordered a regional ban on keeping poultry outside after the agency confirmed a case of highly pathogenic H5N8 bird flu in a wild goose in the western Sandnes municipality. The order follows a request from the Norwegian officials for poultry breeders to minimize contact between their birds and wild birds, according to a local media report.

Regional epidemiologists also warned that bird farmers should pay special attention to the nation's west coast, especially in terms of monitoring higher mortality rates among their flocks.

Avian influenza concerns in the United Kingdom also increased after the H5N8 strain was confirmed in turkeys in North Yorkshire, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced. Officials have widened disease control zones in the area to between 3 kilometers and 10 kilometers around infected premises to limit the potential spread of the virus, the agency added.

Source: https://www.meatingplace.com/Industry/News/Details/95903

OIE map for November 2020



Source: [OIE World Animal Health Information System]