



AVIAN INFLUENZA

British Columbia

Emergency Operations Centre Information Website:

All resources, templates, and information in one place for the current [Avian Influenza](#) outbreak.

Primary Control Zone Changes:

CFIA has transitioned all PCZs within the Fraser Valley to Security Zones. This means general permits are required for movements off-farm. FHAs and movement testing are no longer required. Scheduled DBS is no longer required. Commission staff are completing and submitting all permits.

CFIA will be contacting you to schedule a one-time sampling event. This sampling is a requirement to revoke the zones fully.

If you have questions, please contact Kaitlyn (kaitlyn@bcbhec.com).

Turkey Farmers of Canada – Avian Influenza and Biosecurity Information:

See the below useful attachment regarding Avian Influenza and Biosecurity.

PRICING

Pricing Orders				
Period	Live Chicken	Hatching Eggs	Saleable Chicks	Day-Old Broiler Chicks
A-177	2.218 \$/kg	706.08 ¢/doz	73.41 ¢/chick	92.35 ¢/chick
A-178	2.254 \$/kg	706.92 ¢/doz	73.49 ¢/chick	92.43 ¢/chick
A-179	2.262 \$/kg	687.58 ¢/doz	71.62 ¢/chick	93.56 ¢/chick
A-180	2.280 \$/kg	697.91 ¢/doz	72.70 ¢/chick	94.64 ¢/chick
A-181	2.259 \$/kg	711.07 ¢/doz	74.07 ¢/chick	96.07 ¢/chick
A-182	2.293 \$/kg	709.27 ¢/doz	73.88 ¢/chick	95.88 ¢/chick



PRODUCTION

Year-To-Date Hatchability:

82.67%

Average Lay Cycle End:

61 Weeks

Lay Cycle Length:

Please continue to keep flock fertility up with the extended lay cycle length.

Placement Date / Number Changes:

Production staff want to note that increasing placeable hens or changing placement dates remains challenging at this time; most placement changes as a result of quota transactions must be done at least six months out (currently into October 2023).

Production Cycles		
Period	Start Date	End Date
A-177	Jul 3, 2022	Aug 27, 2022
A-178	Aug 28, 2022	Oct 22, 2022
A-179	Oct 23, 2022	Dec 17, 2022
A-180	Dec 18, 2022	Feb 11, 2023
A-181	Feb 12, 2023	Apr 8, 2023
A-182	Apr 9, 2023	Jun 3, 2023

ON-FARM

2023 Audit Stats

Total Premises to Audit: 52
 Premises Completed: 11/52

Hatching Egg Tip

This [article](#) highlights the best practices in transfers to breeder housing.

Biosecurity Status: RED

Industry is to function under the **red** status of biosecurity.

New Government Requirements for Rodenticide Purchasing and Application:

Please see attached PDF for information on how to purchase and administer Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides.

On-Farm Continued...

Barn Specifications:

Please ensure Commission On-farm staff are aware of any barn specification changes made to your premise, including new barns. These numbers may impact your placement numbers. If corrections or updates need to be made on your specifications, please contact Kaitlyn (kaitlyn@bcbhec.com).

Breaker Quality Egg Program – Reminder:

The Breaker Quality Egg Program (BQEP) has resumed with some Red Alert adaptations. Producers must notify Barry and Kaitlyn via email of their request to be on a pick-up schedule, as permits are still required under CFIA regulations. Permits can take 24 – 48 hours to process.

There will be no slop bucket pick-ups to avoid contamination of the truck and driver. The driver will disinfect his boots or use a provided foot bath and will not use plastic boots. However, if additional PPE is provided, he will use it. The truck has spray-on-and-off capabilities that will be used at your gate. In addition, the truck will be sanitized at the end of each day.

Barry will ensure you are aware of your pickup day in advance.

Do not hesitate to contact Stephanie (stephanie@bcbhec.com) directly with any questions or concerns.

INDUSTRY INFORMATION

Do More Agriculture Foundation:

The Do More Agriculture Foundation has developed mental health support stickers in support of farmer's mental health awareness. The sticker's QR code will bring up the crisis line specific to our province using your location to bring up local agriculture resources. Click [here](#) to download your sticker.

Burn Out and Resilience Workshops:

Join Wendy Bennett from AgSafe BC and Megz Reynolds from the Do More Ag Foundation for workshops on burn out and resilience on April 12th and 13th at the Sandman Hotel on Mt. Lehman in Abbotsford. The workshops are meant to support the poultry industry in recovering from everything that has been thrown at us in the last couple of years. From COVID to floods to heat domes to avian influenza, this industry has weathered a tremendous storm.

Each session has room for 25 people. You can choose from the following dates and times:

- April 12 – 9:00 – 11:00 am – poultry industries only
- April 12 – 6:30 – 8:30 pm – general invitation
- April 13 – 9:00 – 11:00 am – poultry industries only
- April 13 – 1:00 – 3:00 pm – poultry industries only
- April 13 – 6:30 – 8:30 pm – general invitation

Please RSVP to Wendy Bennett (wendy@agsafebc.ca) to ensure we have adequate space and snacks for all who wish to attend. There is no cost to attend.

BC Agriculture Women's Network – Dressing for Success: From Barn to Boardroom & More!

April 26, 2023 – Join Dress for Success Vancouver in an engaging workshop to help you dress professionally in the work you do to support the BC agriculture sector. View the attached invitation for more information and to register.

2022 B.C. AgriStability Late Participation Option

Canada and British Columbia have agreed to implement Late Participation for the 2022 AgriStability program year. Producers now have until **June 30, 2023** to enroll. Late Participation is being enabled in response to the significant production challenges, such as extreme weather and Avian Influenza, that impacted B.C. farmers and ranchers in 2022. AgriStability Late Participation for 2022 ensures that producers who were not enrolled or missed the deadline, can still participate. View the attached flyer for more information.

Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council – Post-Pandemic Survey:

Please see an Agricultural Forecasting Systems Update attached and the news release regarding the survey and how to participate.



TURKEY FARMERS
OF CANADA™
LES ÉLEVEURS DE DINDON
DU CANADA™

Avian Influenza and Biosecurity



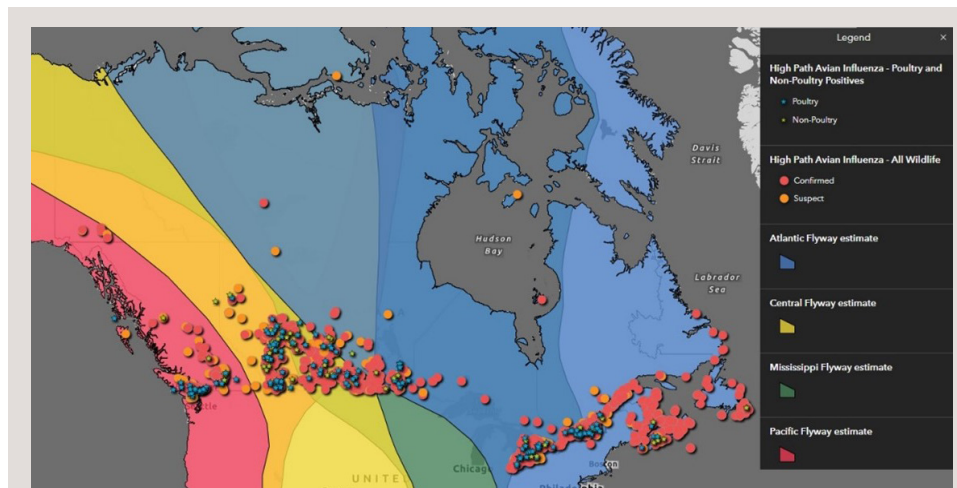
PERSISTENT SURVIVAL OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THE ENVIRONMENT

The virus that causes avian influenza can survive in the environment outside of a host for long periods of time (i.e., greater than three months), particularly in cold and wet conditions. The virus can be spread through the movement of birds, people, things and can be carried by wind over short distances. On-farm biosecurity is still key in prevention.

Movement of Birds and Spread Across the Country

Migratory wild birds, especially waterfowl, are the natural host and reservoir of avian influenza. Wild birds often have little or no symptoms so they can easily spread the virus over long distances along their migratory pathways in Spring and Fall.

There are eight migratory flyways worldwide that overlap. Four of the flyways – the Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic – are located in North America, and describe the patterns by which birds migrate along the North-South axis within the continent.



Source: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – Wildlife Dashboard.

Up to over 200 wild bird species have been classified as either involved in transmission, accidental hosts, or scavenger birds and birds of prey. There have also been a number of mammalian infections reported particularly in scavenging species.

The current outbreak in Canada started with the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a gull in Newfoundland in December 2021, after wild bird migration carried the virus across the Atlantic from Europe, and then quickly spread to wild bird detections in all provinces and territories over 2022. The first commercial detection was in Nova Scotia in February 2022 and by April had spread to Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and New Brunswick (backyard flock only). The above map shows the crossover between wild bird and domestic poultry detections, and increased detections where the North American migratory flyways overlap.

Risk Factors

While research has provided a better understanding of how avian influenza moves over long distances along migration pathways, it is not as well understood how the virus moves from wild birds into commercial poultry and more research is underway to better explain the spread.

Epidemiological investigations by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for the current outbreak mostly support

independent introductions of the virus resulting from contact with wild birds or a contaminated environment, or, in some instances, lateral spread due to the sharing of employees or equipment. There has been no evidence of spread from backyard flocks to commercial poultry. Also, service providers without contact with birds do not seem to play a role in disease transmission.

The following risk factors have been found:

- Being located close to a wet area.
- Having mixed birds, some with outdoor access.
- Sharing of employees and equipment between sites of a single company or biosecurity lapses.
- Movement of birds and exposure to the environment.
- Wild birds accessing barns.
- Wild birds having access to carcasses.

What can you do?

As the contamination level of wild birds and the environment is expected to remain high, and based on the above risk factors, your best plan is to heighten and vigilantly follow strict biosecurity measures to reduce the threat of avian influenza entering your flock.

Heightened Biosecurity Measures

The following provides a reference for developing enhanced biosecurity procedures for your farm. It is based on the requirements of the TFC On-Farm Food Safety Program[®] (OFFSP), additional biosecurity resources, and findings from the current outbreak.

- Assign responsibilities for enhanced biosecurity protocol (e.g., farm manager, employees).
- Ensure that personnel, visitors, suppliers, and service people comply with your biosecurity requirements.
- Ensure you have disposable coveralls, plastic boot covers and other biosecurity supplies (e.g., hair net, safety glasses, mask, disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfectants) on hand.
- Avoid non-essential entries to your farm premises and barns. If visits are necessary, inform the visitors of your enhanced biosecurity measures and ensure that visitors have not visited another farm on the same day.
- Provide visitor parking away from the barn.
- Keep a record of all movement on and off your farm, not just visitors to the barn(s).
- Block all access roads to your farm premises (e.g., using a gate, chain, vehicle) and install biosecurity signage at the entrance to your farm.
- Install a cleaning and decontamination site for vehicles and personnel at the primary access to the Controlled Access Zone (CAZ). Have cleaning and disinfectant supplies present at the decontamination site.
- Avoid direct contact with off-farm poultry operations and poultry personnel.
- Avoid contact with other bird species, including pet birds.
- Do not visit other farms and avoid visiting common gathering places, such as local coffee shops or town meetings.
- Keep your farm-specific disease/emergency response plan up-to-date.
- Closely monitor flock health, including mortalities, feed and water consumption, and abnormal bird behaviour.
- Immediately consult your veterinarian in cases of unexplained mortality or flock illness.
- Submit mortalities for testing.
- *If avian influenza is suspected or confirmed, immediately inform your Provincial Board office and a CFIA district veterinarian.*

Barn Entry Measures

- Clean and sanitize your barn entries every day.
- Wear barn-specific clothing and boots or plastic boot covers.
- Use hand sanitizer or wash hands on entry and exit.
- Improve your barn entry design.
 - Move away from an entry into the restricted area (RA) that is simply marked by a line or tape on the floor as it does not easily prevent stepovers.
 - Replace it with a physical divider (e.g., bench) or so-called Danish entry to provide a barrier to enter the RA that is high and wide enough so it cannot be missed and is a better reminder to change boots before crossing over.

Pest Control

- Maintain an effective pest control program inside and around your barns.
- Avoid contact with wild birds.
- Pay close attention to have effective insect control.

Consider using wild bird deterrent strategies, as applicable and available. However, keep in mind that chasing wild birds can increase the likelihood of contaminating tractor and shoes, and bringing the virus closer to the barn entrance.

- Ensure the screening of your barn windows, vents and other barn openings is small enough to prevent any kind of bird entry (mesh openings should not exceed 2.5 cm).
- Make sure your barns are free from noticeable holes on the inside and outside and doors and door frames fit tight.
- Keep the barn surroundings free of long grass, debris, garbage and discarded equipment.
- Fill in any potholes/depressions in close proximity to the barns where water can stagnate.

The avian influenza virus was found in flies and darkling beetles. Flies can be infective up to 96 hours after exposure and travel up to 3 km². Darkling beetles live from 3 months to 1 year and travel long distances.



Barns without a barn entry room pose a higher biosecurity risk.



Equipment:

- Ensure that all equipment is cleaned and disinfected prior to entering a barn. This includes equipment from your own farm, especially if it was stored outside.
- Avoid sharing equipment with other farms as the practice of sharing equipment was found to be a major point of introduction of the virus. If it is necessary, ensure the equipment is cleaned and disinfected between farms before and after use.
- Provide a designated cleaning and disinfection area for equipment entering your farm.

Moving Birds:

- If moving turkeys between barns, take measures to prevent contact with wild birds and with contaminated grounds and environment (e.g., use a covered livestock trailer).

Mortalities and Garbage Disposal:

- Make sure all used disposable biosecurity supplies remain on your farm.
- Keep mortalities in covered containers before and when being moved to the disposal area to protect the carcasses from scavengers and insects.
- Practice proper composting or freezing of dead birds and ensure that no domestic or wild animals have access to the dead birds.
- Wear protective gear when performing euthanasia of diseased birds. Following the euthanasia of diseased birds, wash your hands, change coveralls and clean and disinfect boots prior to resuming work with the flock.

Bedding

- Use shavings that are clean (commercial source). It is high risk to bring in straw from the field.
- If you must bring in straw from the field, cover any bales used for bedding; do not use outer layers; consider spraying with disinfectant after peeling off the top layer; and, do not use bales that have obvious signs of bird droppings or pest infestation.

Findings by Canadian researchers (Racicot et al., 2011) suggest there is a lack of understanding of biosecurity measures, particularly when it comes to barn entry and exit procedures. During this research, hidden cameras were installed in eight poultry farms, and whether or not farmers followed their established biosecurity measures was recorded. It was found that of 883 barn visits by 102 different people, a total of 44 different mistakes were observed. The most common errors made were: not respecting the designated Restricted Area, for example walking with dirty boots directly into a clean area (61.4%); not changing into barn-specific boots, or not putting on plastic boot covers (13.6%); and, no hand washing (11.4%).

HOW TO ENSURE ADHERENCE TO BIOSECURITY MEASURES – EMPLOYEE TRAINING IS KEY

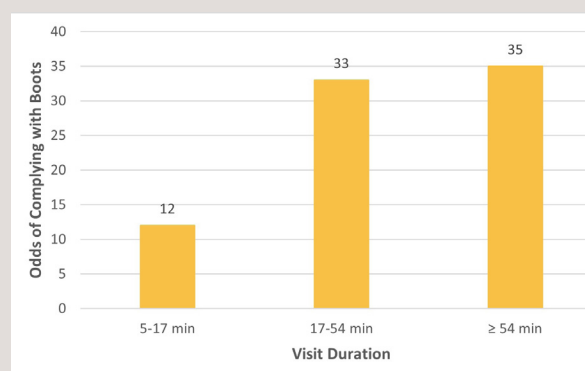
Biosecurity measures must be applied consistently in order to be successful. Past research on compliance with biosecurity measures shows that errors can occur.

THEREFORE:

Training of employees on the importance of biosecurity and how to correctly apply biosecurity measures is the key to compliance.

- Discuss biosecurity with your employees and provide regular reminders.
- Post biosecurity reminders in your barn entry rooms.
- Explain the impact of biosecurity errors.
- Emphasize that the importance of barn entry biosecurity is not dependant on the duration of the visit to a barn.

The same researchers also found that compliance with biosecurity measures decreases with shorter visits to the barn, as demonstrated by the following graph.



Source:
Racicot et al.,
2012

Public Health Risk

There has been increasing global attention to the public health risk of avian influenza and pandemic potential. HPAI cases in humans are rare and usually only occur in people that have close contact with infected birds or contaminated environments. Although human cases of HPAI H5N1 have been recorded in several countries, there has been no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission and no known human cases of HPAI in Canada associated with the current outbreak. However, it is still important to be aware of health measures to take, including wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and getting your annual flu shot.



Contact Us
905-812-3140



info@tfc-edc.ca

References:

Racicot, M., Venne, D., Durivage, A., and Vaillancourt, J.P. 2011. Description of 44 biosecurity errors while entering and exiting poultry barns based on video surveillance in Quebec, Canada. Preventive Veterinary Medicine 100:193-199.

Racicot, M., Venne, D., Durivage, A., and Vaillancourt, J.P. 2012. Evaluation of strategies to enhance biosecurity compliance on poultry farms in Québec: Effect of audits and cameras. Preventive Veterinary Medicine 103: 208-218.

New Government Requirements for: Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides

Definition:

Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides: Rodenticides containing active ingredients - Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, or Difethialone.

To purchase and administer Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs), the requirements are obtaining:

1. Pesticide Applicator Certificate
2. Pesticide User Non-Service Licence

Note: A pesticide applicator certificate must be obtained before applying for a pesticide user non-service license.

Course Options for Pesticide Applicator Certificate:

Pesticide Applicator Certification can be obtained in any of the three categories:

1. Agriculture- General (Field Crop and Orchard Production)
Course: https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7610821034_S#/?statesave=true
Textbook: https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7610821034_S#/?statesave=true
2. Agriculture- General (Greenhouse Production)
Course: https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7610821034_S#/?statesave=true
Textbook: https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7610821034_S#/?statesave=true
3. Rodent Management in Agriculture – **Unless you are previously certified for one of the above certificates, we recommend this certification.**
Course: https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7680003630_S#/?statesave=true
Textbook: https://www.crownpub.bc.ca/Product/Details/7680003630_S#/?statesave=true

Certificate Exam:

- All three course options require a three-hour, open book, written exam.
- Exam cost: \$90.00.
- To arrange writing the exam, contact Service BC 1-866-205-2102.

Exam mark stipulations:

Exam Mark	Certification Term
75% and above	5 years
60% - 74%	1 year
59% and below	No certification

Recertification:

There are two options for recertification:

1. Recertification by exam – see above for exam information.
2. Recertify by CECs (Continuing Education Credits).
 - a. To be recertified using this process, you must obtain 20 CECs over your five-year certificate.
 - b. Recertification credits for Agriculture Pesticide Applicator Certificates are managed by the following private industry associations:

BC Fruit Growers Association

Phone: 250-762-2556

Email: info@bcfga.com

BC Wine Grape Council

Phone: 250-809-7107

Email: info@bcwgc.org

Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement Association

Phone: 604-857-0318

Email: growers@agricultreshow.net

Note: Recertification by CECs is only available for:

- *Agriculture Field Crop and Orchard Certification (5 year)*
- *Agriculture – Greenhouse Production Certification (5 year)*

Pesticide User Non-Service Licence:

No exam is required to apply for this licence.

The cost of the licence is \$250.00.

The licence is valid for 1 year.

To apply for a pesticide licence, an applicant will need:

- A valid Pesticide Applicator Certificate or employ a person with a Pesticide Applicator Certificate, in the appropriate category.
- A completed Pesticide Licence Application:
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/pesticides-and-pest-management/pesticide-use/forms/licence_application.pdf

Completed applications and payment can be dropped off in person at the nearest Service BC Centre or emailed to applications.sbc@gov.bc.ca.



DRESS FOR SUCCESS

APRIL 26, 2023, PRESENTATION BEGINS AT 1:30 PM

The BC Agricultural Women's Network is excited to present Dress for Success Vancouver!

Dressing for Success: From Barn to Boardroom & More

Join Dress for Success Vancouver in an engaging workshop to help you dress professionally in the work you do to support the BC agricultural sector. If you work in the boardroom, need advice on business casual attire, are just starting your career, want to dress up your blazer and jeans for casual Friday, or anywhere in between - we've got you covered. During this workshop, you will learn the Do's and Don'ts of appropriate attire in the workplace, understand what colours mean about you and how you show up in the workplace, identify some classic must-haves in your closet, and know how to tie your look together with the right footwear, accessories, hairstyle, and makeup. You will leave this workshop with a wealth of dressing ideas for your next meeting, conference, presentation, conversation, & more and be able to articulate your unique Personal Visual Statement that sets you up for success.

There will be coffee, tea, and snacks provided.

Click [here](#) to register!

ADDRESS:
BMO OFFICE –
32988 SOUTH FRASER
WAY, ABBOTSFORD,
BC
SECOND FLOOR

FIND US ON
FACEBOOK!
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NETWORK*

ADD US TO YOUR
CONTACTS
[BCAGWOMENSNETWORK@
GMAIL.COM](mailto:BCAGWOMENSNETWORK@GMAIL.COM)



2022 B.C. AgriStability Late Participation Option

We have great news to share and hope you will assist us with informing your members, that Canada and British Columbia have agreed to implement Late Participation for the 2022 AgriStability program year. Producers now have until **June 30, 2023** to enroll. Late Participation is being enabled in response to the significant production challenges, such as extreme weather and Avian Influenza, that impacted B.C. farmers and ranchers in 2022. AgriStability Late Participation for 2022 ensures that producers who were not enrolled or missed the deadline, can still participate.

Please let your members know that enrolling in 2022 B.C. AgriStability Late Participation Option is easy! All they have to do is:

- 1) Go to the program website at www.gov.bc.ca/AgriStability and download the 2022 Late Participant Initial Declaration and Authorization Form and fill it in. Forms are also available by calling 1-877-343-2767, or by going to the nearest AgriStability office.
- 2) Send the completed form by email to AgriStability@gov.bc.ca, or return by mail to AgriStability Administration, 200-1500 Hardy Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 8H2, or drop it off at an AgriStability office. The form must be sent on or before the **June 30, 2023, deadline**.
- 3) Pay a \$300 Late Participation Fee, which can be paid by calling 1-877-343-2767, by going to the nearest AgriStability office or by including a cheque (payable to the Minister of Finance) with their mailed application form.

After their form is received, a member of our AgriStability Administration Team will contact them to gather more information about their operation and to discuss the option for an advance payment.

We've attached the 2022 Late Participant Initial Declaration and Authorization Form in case you want to send it directly to your members. If you or your members have any questions about Late participation or AgriStability in general they can contact us at:

AgriStability Administration Head Office 200 1500 Hardy Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 8H2 AgriStability Regional Office 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3	Website: www.gov.bc.ca/AgriStability E-mail: AgriStability@gov.bc.ca Toll-Free Phone: 1 877 343 2767 Fax: 1 877 605 8467
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Agricultural Forecasting Systems Update

Project

Growing the Agriculture Workforce of the Future; Cultivating Canada's Post-Pandemic Recovery project will provide creative support solutions to workforce challenges in the agriculture sector. The development and implementation of these solutions will be evidence-based informed by labour market information. This initiative to enhance and update the Agri LMI forecast through the Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program is funded by Employment and Social Development Canada.

Objective

This one-year project will enhance and update CAHRC's agricultural supply/demand forecasting system. The new information will provide updated national, provincial and commodity-specific labour market information that will provide clarity for agricultural employees, employers, educators and policymakers about the state of the labour market and ways to minimize skills and labour shortages in the future.

Project Activities

- Update the demand/supply model of the agricultural workforce with information about employment level, projected employment growth, seasonality of labour demand, labour expansion and replacement demand projections, a forecast of labour supply inflows and outflows including immigration, inter-sector mobility, and retirements, as well as temporary foreign workers.
- Conduct an industry survey to update findings from the previous project, such as the sector's outlook, and the cost of labour shortages to the industry.
 - Conduct an employer survey to assess the number of job vacancies and the cost of lost sales from those vacancies.
 - Verify assumptions used in the forecast, such as the production outlook, and the pace of farm consolidation.
- Forecast labour gaps based on a medium-growth scenario. Adjust national, provincial and commodity-specific forecasts based on stakeholder feedback.
 - Validate research findings through a series of webinars with industry stakeholders.
 - Conduct secondary investigations and analyses focused on specific topics related to the participation of equity-deserving groups in the agricultural workforce. Specific lines of enquiry will be based on stakeholder recommendations.
- Develop reports detailing LMI demand and supply for agricultural occupations, nationally, provincially and by commodity

- Disseminate findings through various means including:
 - a national AgriWorkforce Summit for employers, employment serving agencies, government, education, and industry associations,
 - a series of presentations to industry associations detailing national, provincial or commodity-specific labour market information.

Potential Partners

The direct involvement of CAHRC's partners will be essential to the success of the project. A national advisory group, 26 experts with an interest in labour market issues will guide the progress of the project. A Provincial LMI Panel comprised of federal and provincial government representatives will be convened to tailor province-specific lines of enquiry.

Expected Results and Outcomes

New national, provincial and commodity-specific forecasts of agricultural labour supply and demand to 2027 will provide up to date labour market intelligence to the agricultural industry. This will provide valuable information to job seekers, educators and government policymakers about current and future job opportunities and will provide information to agricultural employers about potential sources of workers for their operations and skills and training required. Ultimately, more informed decisions will be made by those seeking work and those looking to secure workers.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2023

NEWS RELEASE

CAHRC to survey ag industry to evaluate post-pandemic labour market situation

Ottawa, ON – The Canadian agriculture industry has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and one of the most pressing issues that it faces today is the availability of skilled labour. In light of this, the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council (CAHRC) is launching a survey to evaluate the post-pandemic labour market situation in the industry. It will also be a reference point to the data that CAHRC has been gathering for almost a decade.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing issues, such as labour shortages and other challenges, and it is crucial to understand the current market situation and the impact of the pandemic on the industry's workforce. This much-anticipated update to the previous LMI study completed in 2018 will collect valuable insights from primary producers, provincial governments, agricultural industry associations, commodity groups, and other stakeholders in the agriculture industry to identify challenges, and explore potential solutions. CAHRC will obtain an updated overview of the current agricultural labour market that will inform the labour supply and demand forecasts.

"The Canadian agriculture industry has been experiencing a growing labour shortage that is turning to a labour crisis. The update to this research will provide a measurement of what that labour shortage is currently and forecast what the future holds," said Jennifer Wright, CAHRC's Executive Director. "This data is often used to inform policy, funding, training and education programs and labour market information assessments. The more participation we have in this survey the better the data will be."

In this constantly changing economic environment, research is so important and current data is critical to help clarify labour shortage issues. By better understanding how workforce needs have changed, the agricultural industry can present the new research to policy makers to guide future action on the growing workforce crisis. In this effort, CAHRC will be surveying a minimum of 800 Canadian farm owner-operators, agricultural workers and supporting stakeholder groups. With the direct input of these various groups, they will have an opportunity to provide valuable input to guide future action on labour shortages. We urge all owner-operators, agricultural workers and supporting stakeholder groups to take part in the surveys that will be open until April 30, 2023.

New to CAHRC's labour market research, this update will investigate opportunities and barriers to participation among groups in Canada's population that have traditionally been under-represented in the agricultural workforce such as Indigenous peoples, new Canadians, women, youth and older workers). The industries in this study will also expand to include agriculture retail, cannabis production and organic production.

The Council has led numerous labour market information projects that have provided meaningful data and tools to further the needs of the agriculture industry. The full research report *Understanding the Effects of COVID-19 on Canada's Agriculture Workforce* is available at <https://cahrc-ccrha.ca/programs/agrilmj>.

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program (SWSP).

Canada

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For more information contact:

Mélanie Fraxedas, Marketing and Communications Specialist

E: mfraxedas@cahrc-ccrha.ca

T: 647-338-1503

About CAHRC

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) is a national, non-profit organization focused on addressing human resource issues facing agricultural businesses across Canada. CAHRC works with industry leaders, governments and educational stakeholders, to research, develop and communicate solutions to the challenges in employment and skills development in primary agriculture

The Council represents farming in all its forms: raising traditional and non-traditional livestock; producing, cultivating, growing, harvesting or collecting conventional and non-conventional agriculture commodities; and any practices performed as an integral part of an agricultural operation.

For more information visit www.cahrc-ccrha.ca.
