

BC BROILER HATCHING EGG COMMISSION AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER



INDUSTRY INFORMATION

2024 September Producer Meeting – Save the Date:

Mark your calendar! We will be hosting an in-person Producer Meeting at the Clarion on September 26, 2024, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Our meetings have been very full over the past few, so we have organized a bigger room for your comfort.

BQEP Truck:

Please be advised that the BQEP truck is out of service due to mechanical issues. A rental truck will be resuming routes on August 6th. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office.

Less than 5-Year Producer Club:

We are organizing an informative session for producers with less than five years of quota ownership. If you're interested in attending, please let us know. Once we have enough participants, we will announce the date and time. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Michaela (admin@bcbhec.com).

Regional Diversity Information Session:

We are organizing an informative session for producers interested in the regional diversity project including those who may be interested in relocating to the interior. If you're interested in attending, please let us know. Once we confirm participants, we will announce the date and time. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Michaela (admin@bcbhec.com).

COP Surveys:

Serecon has started contacting producers to participate in the COP surveys. It is critical that you participate should you be contacted. Serecon is sending staff a report of those who are not responding, and we will be following up with you directly.

Stay Informed:

Check our [website](#) frequently for the latest updates on webinars and valuable guides. Find essential resources and presentations on important industry topics to keep yourself ahead in your field.

PRICING

Pricing Orders				
Period	Live Chicken	Hatching Eggs	Saleable Chicks	Day-Old Broiler Chicks
A-186	2.212 \$/kg	743.56 ¢/doz	77.45 ¢/chick	99.45 ¢/chick
A-187	2.2445 \$/kg	717.62 ¢/doz	74.75 ¢/chick	96.75 ¢/chick
A-188	2.2073 \$/kg	725.50 ¢/doz	75.57 ¢/chick	97.57 ¢/chick
A-189	2.1704 \$/kg	717.44 ¢/doz	74.73 ¢/chick	96.73 ¢/chick
A-190	2.1678 \$/kg	722.78 ¢/doz	75.29 ¢/chick	97.29 ¢/chick

PRODUCTION

Year-To-Date Hatchability:

82.4%

Average Lay Cycle End:

59.7 Weeks

Production Cycles		
Period	Start Date	End Date
A-186	Nov 19, 2023	Jan 13, 2024
A-187	Jan 14, 2024	Mar 9, 2024
A-188	Mar 10, 2024	May 4, 2024
A-189	May 5, 2024	Jun 29, 2024
A-190	Jun 30, 2024	Aug 25, 2024

Placement Date / Number Changes: Production staff want to note that increasing placeable hens or changing placement dates can be challenging and usually must be done at least six months out (currently into February 2025).

Placements for Second Year of Quota Cycle:

On June 28, 2024, the production and on-farm team distributed a memo on your maximum utilization capacity under ACP, your current barn specifications, and an updated Quota & Placement sheet for this cycle. If you have any question or concerns, please contact staff.

ON-FARM

2024 Audit Stats

Total Premises to Audit: 54
Premises Completed: 25/54

Hatching Egg Tip

A interesting [article](#) on how to measure pin bone spacing.

Biosecurity Status: YELLOW

Industry is to function under the yellow status of biosecurity. The yellow biosecurity status is attached.

CHEP Animal Care Program (ACP) Updates:

The ACP has been updated and its new regulations come into effect September 1, 2024. Associated literature has been distributed to producers and is also accessible on the BCBHEC [website](#). Paper copies will be distributed at on-farm appointments and other producer gatherings. These updates are to replace specific pages within ACP manuals. Upon receiving the paper copy updates, please use the updated pages to replace the outdated ones within producer manuals onsite.

Barn Specifications Reminder:

Please let On-Farm staff know if you are or will be renovating your barns. The ACP requires most up to date barn specifications on file as these numbers affect your flock sizes.

HPAI Detections in BC - Wildlife and Environmental Surveillance:

HPAI surveillance dashboard is available [here](#).

HPAI H5N1 Investigation Report:

We are pleased to share the attached report, "An investigation of HPAI H5N1 in BC, Fall 2023 – A Synopsis".

Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) Update:

The aMPV is a highly virulent virus causing respiratory and secondary infections in birds, leading to 4-5% mortality in broiler breeders. Efforts are underway to fast-track vaccine approval and increase provincial lab testing capacity. For more details, check the attached information sheet.

CHEP Agriskills Course:

A reminder that CHEP offers a comprehensive online modular course on Broiler Breeder production. Based on real-world best practices used on farms across Canada, this simple, practical training package ensures that even the busiest farms can successfully train their workers quickly and with no down-time. Please contact Kaitlyn (kaitlyn@bcbhec.com) to register you or your employees.





Save the Date!

Producer Meeting

Date: September 26, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 36035 N Parallel Rd, Abbotsford, BC V3G
2C6

Please RSVP with admin@bcbhec.com.

Heightened Biosecurity “Yellow”

These measures are above mandatory standards and should be applied when there is a heightened disease risk or other threats in your region within BC.¹

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
- Minimize contact with all other avian (bird) and porcine (swine) species
- Minimize 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 unusual changes in feed and water consumption, 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 commodities On-Farm Food Safety Program requires more stringent biosecurity measures please follow them instead. The measures above are minimum requirements.



Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV)

Background

Avian metapneumovirus (aMPV), known as swollen head syndrome in chickens, is a highly contagious upper respiratory tract infection. Infection with this virus can lead to secondary infections including bacteria (*E. coli*, ORT, *Pasteurella spp.*, *B. avium*, *R. anatipestifer*), mycoplasma (MG), aspergillosis, and viruses (e.g. IBV) resulting in potential development of airsacculitis and pneumonia. The mortality rate of aMPV depends on virulence of virus strain, species, age of birds, breeding conditions, immune status, and secondary infections.

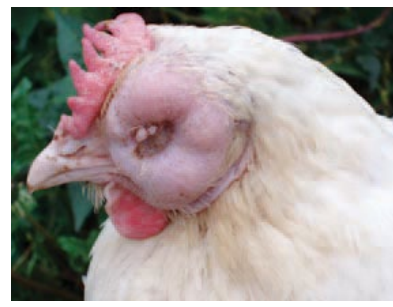
Transmission

Clinically healthy wild birds are considered a reservoir for this aMPV (waterfowl, sparrows, swallows, pigeons, falcons etc.). Wild birds and game birds have been found to be seropositive in Ontario. The most common transmission route is through aerosol or direct contact of respiratory secretions on people or contaminated equipment. To date, there is no clear evidence of vertical transmission from breeders to offspring.

The virus has an incubation period of 3-7 days wherein it will spread rapidly within and between flocks. Birds shed the virus for only a few days and there is no latency or carrier state. However, there are species differences in the onset and development of lesions. Unfortunately, clinical signs and lesions are non-specific.

Clinical Signs

- Sneezing, coughing, rales, and conjunctivitis
- Discoloration
- Swelling of the head (periorbital and infraorbital sinuses)
- Nervous signs such as torticollis, also known as wry neck, crook neck, or stargazing
- Decreased egg production and egg quality



Source: [The Poultry Site](#)

If your flock is showing clinical signs of respiratory disease, contact your veterinarian.



Testing

Diagnostic testing of aMPV can be challenging as the virus is cleared quickly from the birds. The virus may only be detectable for 6-7 days post-infection. Once clinical signs are recognized, the virus may be undetectable by PCR alone, so combining PCR with ELISA antibody testing can aide in diagnosing and tracking the disease.

Reporting

Avian metapneumovirus is an immediately notifiable disease to CFIA. The laboratories are required to contact CFIA if there is a suspicion or diagnosis of the disease. Currently, CFIA takes no action in response to aMPV detection.

Provincial reporting depends on the province. The Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS) tool to search for diseases and their status – available online [here](#).

Treatment and Prevention

There is no treatment for an aMPV infection, so focus should be on prevention. Preventative measures include biosecurity, good barn management (i.e., ventilation, temperature, maintaining good litter quality, not overcrowding). This virus is sensitive to multiple disinfectants (quaternary ammonium, bleach, etc.). It is stable at pH 3.0 – 9.0 and inactivated at 56°C for 30 minutes. However, it has longer survival times (i.e., weeks) at lower temperatures, which could explain some seasonal patterns.

No vaccines are currently available for use in Canada or the United States of America. However, live and inactivated vaccines are available in countries where the disease is endemic (e.g., Europe).

References

- www.oahn.ca/news/avian-metapneumovirus-ampv-detected-in-ontario/
- <https://www.thepoultrysite.com/publications/diseases-of-poultry/197/swollen-head-syndrome>
- Rautenschlein S. Avian Metapneumovirus. In: Swayne DE, ed. Diseases of Poultry, 14th, Vol I. Wiley Blackwell, 2020:135-143.
- Jones RC, Rautenschlein S. Avian Metapneumovirus. In: Swayne DE, ed. Diseases of Poultry, 13th, Wiley Blackwell, 2013:112-119.
- Kaboudi K, Lachheb J. Avian metapneumovirus infection in turkeys: a review on turkey rhinotracheitis. J Appl Poult Res 2021;30:100211. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japr.2021.100211>