BC BROILER HATCHING EGG COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

INDUSTRY INFORMATION

Save the Date – BCBHEC Christmas Social:
Mark your calendars for December 3 at 7:00 PM as we gather for the Christmas Social at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre. Join us for an evening of drinks, appetizers, and great conversation with fellow producers and industry colleagues. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Save the Date – 2026 Poultry Conference:
The Annual BC Poultry Conference will be held on March 12–13, 2026, at the Coast Langley Hotel and Conference Centre. The event will be split over two days to accommodate all participating industry groups. Registration is now open.

Speak Up! Training – November 14:
Join us for the next Speak Up! workshop hosted by the BC Agriculture Council — a hands-on session for farmers, ranchers, and industry leaders to strengthen their communication and advocacy skills. It takes place Friday, November 14, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Surrey, BC. Cost: $40 + GST (includes light lunch and snacks). Register here.

Quota Billboard Reminder:
Producers are encouraged to regularly review the Quota Billboard for current opportunities related to quota leasing, purchasing, or sales.

Producer License & BQEP Farmgate Sales Trial License Applications:
Producer license applications have been distributed. Please submit completed applications to Michaela at admin@bcbhec.com by November 7, 2025. Please note that BQEP Farmgate Sales Trial license applications do not have a set due date.

Strategic Priorities – Upcoming Stakeholder Consultation:
Work on the Commission's strategic priorities is actively underway. As part of this process, stakeholders will be invited to participate in a consultation period over the coming months. Please see this post for Amending Order 40 and the Quota Lease Policy Review.

PRICING

Pricing Orders

Period	Live Chicken	Hatching Eggs	Saleable Chicks	Day-Old Broiler Chicks
A-194	2.1758 $/kg	736.69 ¢/doz	76.74 ¢/chick	100.15 ¢/chick
A-195	2.1871 $/kg	770.45 ¢/doz	80.26 ¢/chick	106.26 ¢/chick
A-196	2.2873 $/kg	783.00 ¢/doz	81.56 ¢/chick	107.56 ¢/chick
A-197	2.2544 $/kg	785.53 ¢/doz	81.83 ¢/chick	107.83 ¢/chick
A-198	2.2342 $/kg	786.38 ¢/doz	81.91 ¢/chick	107.91 ¢/chick

PRODUCTION

Year-To-Date Hatchability:
81.5%

Average Lay Cycle End:
58.9 Weeks

Production Cycles

Period	Start Date	End Date
A-194	Feb 9, 2025	Apr 5, 2025
A-195	Apr 6, 2025	May 30, 2025
A-196	Jun 1, 2025	Jul 26, 2025
A-197	Jul 27, 2025	Sep 20, 2025
A-198	Sep 21, 2025	Nov 15, 2025

Under or Over-Placement Communications:
Producers are reminded that should there be an under or over-placement of hens that their next steps are to communicate with both the hatchery manager and Commission staff. Depending on the circumstance, an attempt will be made to source additional hens or monitor mortality to bring the net placement down to the correct placement amount.

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 May 2026).

ON-FARM

2025 Audit Stats

Total Premises to Audit: 49
Premises Completed: 42

Hatching Egg Tip

Have you ever seen a rodent in your facilities? To get rid of rodents, you need to learn about them.
Click here for more information.

Biosecurity Status: RED

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

HPAI Zoning Update:

Fraser Valley zones 2-10 have been activated. Producers are responsible for knowing their zone obligations for moving product. Log onto the Producer Portal to find this information and more. Please reach out to Kaitlyn at kaitlyn@bcbhec.com and Rae at onfarmtech@bcbhec.com to organize movement permits for pullets, manure, and spiking males. Be sure to watch your inbox for future updates from the Poultry Industry EOC.

AgLife Connector Training:

As a funding partnership with IAF, the Government of Canada, and the Government of BC, AgLife is offering Connector Training to individuals in positions of aid and individuals looking to support family and friends through difficult times such as disease outbreaks. This free training focuses on identifying members of our community who may be experiencing thoughts or feelings of suicide and/or other impacts to mental wellbeing. For more information and to sign up, click here.

If you or someone you know is struggling and in need of support, please reach out through the resources available at AgLife. Call 9-8-8 for 24/7 support or visit their website for free counselling services, resources, and more.

Rodent Control Factsheet:

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food has distributed a rodent control factsheet that provides information on rodent species, site evaluations, and strategies for prevention and control under SGARS. Prevention and control of rodents is an essential on-farm biosecurity step to managing disease risks. Full factsheet is available below.

Employee Hiring Screening:

A reminder that CHEP offers free employee hiring screening for producers looking to screen potential employees. For more information and screening services, please forward requests to Kaitlyn at kaitlyn@bcbhec.com.

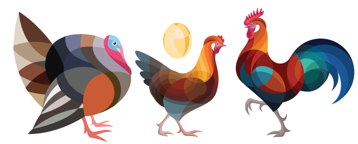
Audit Program Reminder:

Producers are required to provide annual supplier letters of assurance during Schedule 5 program audits from allied trades such as hatcheries, transporters, feed, and sawdust companies. Please ensure supplier letters of assurance are annually updated within your audit files.

Our staff got into the Halloween spirit this year by dressing up as our Chair, Bill!

BC POULTRY CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS:
OCTOBER 31, 2025

2026 MARCH 12 - 13, 2026

COAST LANGLEY CITY HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE

BC Turkey Association and BC Turkey Marketing Board
BC Chicken Growers Association & BC Chicken Marketing Board
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Association & BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission

Enhanced Biosecurity “Red”

*These measures are **in addition to your “Green” and “Yellow” biosecurity protocols**[1] and should be implemented on farms in a region where a disease or other threat is suspected or present.*

Controlled Access Zone (CAZ)

- Inform all family, friends, staff, service personnel, and allied trades of your enhanced biosecurity measures
- Keep your CAZ barrier locked at all times
- *Limit visits to only essential visitors. They must make an appointment and they must follow individual farm’s biosecurity requirements. Wherever possible, meet off the farm. (revised)*
- Implement your vehicle wash station at the entrance to your CAZ
  - Remove all organic debris with pressurized water
  - Disinfect tires, wheel wells, and under-carriages of vehicles
  - Disinfect the floor mats, pedals, steering wheel, and door handles of the interior of the vehicle with disinfecting wipes or a small spray bottle and paper towel
- Make sure garbage bins (dumpsters) are outside of the CAZ and reduce pick-ups as much as possible

Restricted Access Zone (RAZ)

- Keep all exterior barn doors locked at all times when not occupied by personnel
- When entering the RAZ change into barn specific coveralls and RAZ specific boots as well as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per WorkSafe BC requirements
- When exiting the RAZ leave all biosecurity gear on the RAZ side of the CAZ/RAZ demarcation
- Wash and or sanitize your hands before entering or exiting the RAZ
- Shower before and after completing your daily barn chores
- Restrict contact between commercial poultry and wild birds & wild bird droppings

Conducting Business

- Whenever possible conduct all activities through non-contact methods such as telephone, email, or fax
- *Ensure proper biosecurity protocols are implemented while attending and returning from any common public gatherings. (revised)*

[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.

CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE ON POULTRY FARMS

Factsheet – Revised October 2025
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food

CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE ON POULTRY FARMS

ECONOMIC DAMAGE FROM RATS AND MICE

A few rats and mice can quickly multiply into several hundred in a few months. Rats produce 6 to 7 litters per year, have 8 to 10 young per litter, and reach sexual maturity in 2.5 to 4 months. The gestation period is 21 to 23 days. Mice reach sexual maturity at 6 weeks of age, have a gestation period of 16 to 18 days and bear 5 to 8 young per litter.

Rats and mice cause major economic damage to poultry operations. Losses include damage to wiring that may result in fires, malfunctioning equipment and alarms, and damage to buildings and doors. A rat eats 10-20 kgs of feed a year, while a pair of mice eats 2 kgs.

Rodent control is particularly important when feed prices are high. Rats and mice spread many diseases including dysentery, ratbite fever, Leptospirosis, Salmonellosis, Hantavirus, Mareks Disease, and Pasteurella.

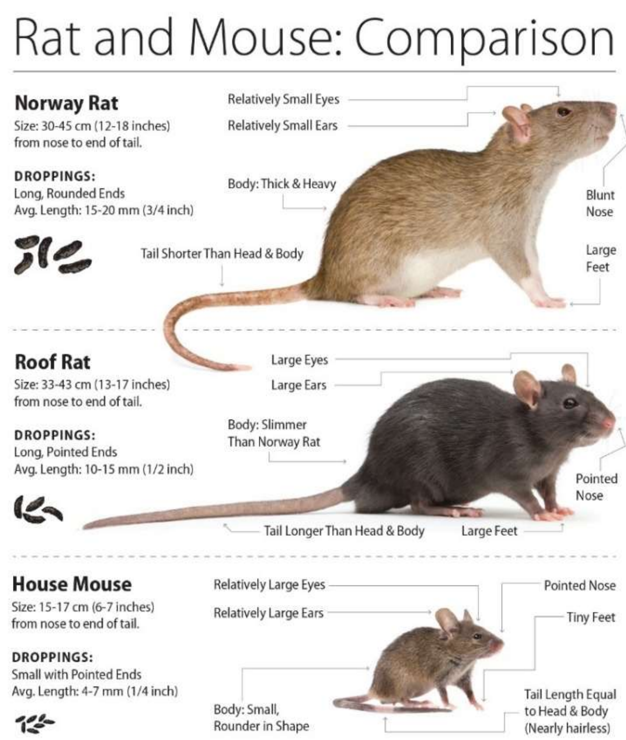
TYPES OF RODENTS ON FARMS

The Norway Rat is a large, aggressive, burrowing rat found around dumps, sewers and buildings, close to food and water. The rat has a travelling range of approximately 30 to 50 metres.

The Roof Rat is a smaller, agile climber, who lives in the upper floors of buildings, but sometimes in sewers. It also has a travelling range of around 30 metres.

The House Mouse is found in buildings, nesting in walls, cabinets and furniture. It has a travelling range of 3 to 10 metres.

For more information please visit the Ministry of Environment's Integrated Pest Management page: [Managing rat and mouse pests - Province of British Columbia]



EVALUATING THE RODENT POPULATION ON A FARM

There are several indicators of a rodent population on a farm:

a) **Seeing:** Rodents are nocturnal, their absence from view is not indicative that a farm is free of them.

b) **Sound:** By standing quietly in the barn you may hear gnawing, scratching or running in the walls.

c) **Droppings:** This is one of the best indicators of rodent populations. The number of rodents can be determined by the amount of fresh droppings. The greatest quantity of droppings will appear on runways, near harborage sites, in secluded corners and near food supplies. Norway rat droppings are 19 mm long and 6 mm in diameter. Roof rat droppings are smaller and more regular in form. Mouse droppings are generally 3 mm in diameter. Fresh droppings are black and moist; old droppings, dry, fragile and grey. Old droppings are not indicative of present infestations. A rat produces in excess of 4 droppings per day.

d) **Runways, tracks and rub marks:** Rats and mice use the same path repeatedly. They develop paths 5-8 cm wide in soil areas. In dusty areas, tracks and a wavy line resulting from a dragged tail can sometimes be seen. The age of a rat or mouse run gives you important information. A fresh run over earth will generally be hard packed and free of dirt and litter. Heavy use may give it a shiny appearance. Cobwebs across a path indicate the run is no longer in use. Baby powder up to 3 mm deep placed on a suspected path will allow you to determine if the path is in active use.

   Tracks can be seen around mud puddles and by shining a flashlight along a dusty floor in seldom used rooms. Rat tracks are 1.9 cm to 4 cm long. The front imprint is 4 toed while the back imprint is 5 toed.

   Rats and mice also leave rub marks on objects or entrances they pass regularly. Rub marks are often found around gnawed holes, along pipes and beams, on the edges of stairs and along walls. Rub marks made by rats passing under floor joists along a beam indicate the presence of roof rats. Norway Rats runs are more often near the floor. House mouse runs may be anywhere. Search behind vertical pipes near walls for evidence of rub marks. Small vertical pipes and columns are the favourite way for rats and mice to change floors. Fresh rub marks indicate present infestation and are soft when scratched. Old marks are brittle, flake off and may not indicate the active presence of rodents.

e) **Gnawing:** Recent gnawings through wood appear light colored and small chewed pieces or cuttings may be observed in the vicinity. As the opening ages, the edges get smoother as the rodents remove the sharp edges which offend them as they pass by.

f) **Burrows:** Norway Rats live in burrows in the ground around buildings, embankments, and under heavy brush and plant growth. Rat burrows are around 7.5 cm in diameter. Dirt pushed out in a fan shape indicates recent use. Burrows are shallow and complex and often have several entrances. Mice usually live in buildings but will burrow in fields. Their burrows are smaller with 3.5 cm entrance holes.

g) **Nests:** Rat and mice nests are often found concealed in piles of debris or stored material, between double walls, under floors, or in hollow trees. The Roof Rat will build a ball shaped nest in a tree or dense bush. Unless young are present or the rats are seen coming and going, nests generally are a poor method of determining current infestations.

h) **Feeding locations:** Rats will drag food scraps to the entrance of the burrows and other locations where they feed. Gnawed bones, food wrappers, and other debris will be evident at these locations.

STRATEGIES FOR RODENT PREVENTION

Strategies for rodent prevention include: removal of feed sources, reducing the harborage (housing available) and rodent proofing (preventing entrance).

a) **Removal of feed source:** Store all feed in rodent proof containers where possible. Household garbage and food refuse should be kept in rodent proof containers. Rodent proof bird feeders, keep dog and cat food where rodents can't access it and clean up old vegetable material from gardens in the fall.

   Separate out edible from non-edible garbage before disposal and do not dispose of edible garbage in open composts. Bagged feed should be at least 0.5 metres from the walls and floor with 0.6 metres or more between pallets. All bins and self-feeders should be on concrete pads.

b) **Harborage reduction:** Rodents need shelter and housing to reproduce. Destroy all nesting places, remove rubbish and old machinery from around buildings, store wood at least a half a metre off the ground and away from buildings, cut grass around the buildings, reduce availability of water in and around the buildings.

c) **Rodent proofing:** All places where feed and grain are kept, used, or mixed should be sealed to prevent rodents from entering. Rats must wear down 10-15 cm of teeth per year to maintain use of their teeth, and they can exert pressures of 0.1-0.2 tonnes per square cm when biting. This makes it possible for rats to easily enter buildings and damage materials in the process.

   Use metal flashing if the building siding is vertical to stop rats and mice from entering the ends of the siding. Doors and windows should have 0.3 cm or less clearance to prevent rodents from entering.

   Doors should be fitted with metal kick plates to prevent rats from gnawing in. Drain cover holes should be less than 6 mm in size to stop rodents from entering through the drain holes. Also seal the areas where utilities enter the buildings. Concrete floors in poultry operations are a must to prevent rodent infestations.

   Inside the building, fill any potential nesting holes 6 mm in size or larger with mortar, concrete or metal flashing. You can attach metal sheeting 0.5 metres wide, 1 metre up from the floor on any rough climbable surface. Fill the openings around utilities, conduits, pipes, etc. with masonry, sheet metal or hardware cloth. Drains and pump out ports should be covered and screened.

Rodent proofing is more successful if appropriate building materials are used: sheet metal should be galvanized and of minimum thickness 0.46 mm (26 gauge); galvanized hardware cloth used alongside footings, and for soffits or hole covers should be at least 1.07 mm (19 gauge) thick and have a mesh opening size equal to 13 mm or smaller for rats and 6 mm or smaller for mice; mortar for sealing holes should have a cement- sand ratio of 1:3 or higher; ready-mix concrete should be at least 20 MPa (3000 psi) in strength; and site- mixed concrete should be prepared with a mix of 1 part cement to 2 parts sand to 4 parts aggregate by volume, or stronger. The water to cement ratio should not be greater than 0.65 to ensure a 20 MPa strength.

DESTRUCTION OF RODENTS

Rodents can be controlled through a variety of means including snaptraps, electronic traps, and rodenticides.

a) **Snap traps:** Place in dark corners, behind objects placed next to walls and wherever mice and rats are located. Mouse traps should be placed at 2 to 4 metre intervals, rat traps at 5 to 6 metre intervals. Place traps at right angles to the runway with the trigger mechanism on the runway and attach the traps via wire to the wall to avoid loss of traps. Bait can be attached to the trigger using fine cord like dental floss. A little peanut butter placed on the bait will increase its attractiveness to rodents. A box placed a few inches from the wall, with a trap placed perpendicular to the wall at the entrance and exit of the tunnel that has been formed between the box and the wall, will prove effective in guiding the rodent to the trap.

b) **Electronic traps**: Battery powered traps electrocute mice or rats that enter the chamber. The electric charge activates in seconds ensuring a humane kill. Traps can be placed similar to snap traps above. Typically, traps can kill a large number of rodents before batteries need to be recharged. Bait is also required in the trap to lure rodents in. Some traps can be monitored using a mobile app. This app sends kill alerts to your mobile device to allow you to check traps when alerted.

c) **Rodenticides:**

Rodenticides are highly toxic and can pose a risk to people, pets and wildlife. They should only be considered as a last resort. To reduce the risk of wildlife poisoning, new requirements for the sale and use of second-generation rodenticides (SGARs) came into effect January 21, 2023 ([Agricultural Operators Guide: Rodenticide Rules Have Changed]). *Rodenticides are of several types:*

- **First-generation anticoagulants:** Numerous feedings over 8-20 days results in internal bleeding and death. Generic examples include: warfarin, chlorophacinone, and diaphacinone. A break in feeding will allow the rodent to survive. These are highly toxic.
- **Second-generation anticoagulants:** A single feeding by rats or mice will result in death within days. Generic examples include bromadiolone, brodifacoum and difethialone. These are considered to be more toxic than 1st generation.
- **Non-anticoagulants (Bromethalin, Zinc Phosphide)**

REQUIREMENTS FOR SGARS

As of January 21, 2023, SGARs are restricted to authorized essential services only. This includes agricultural operators. To use SGARs, agricultural operators require both a pesticide applicator certificate and pesticide use license. Agricultural operators may only use SGARS as part of an Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM). Alternatively, they could hire a licensed pest control company to apply SGARs on their behalf. The new requirements include:

- SGARs must only be used for short-term baiting cycles (a cycle cannot exceed 35 days; multiple baiting cycles can be used; however, after each baiting cycle the licensee must attempt to resolve further rodent issues with prevention and alternative methods before initiating a new SGAR baiting cycle. The total number of days of SGAR use cannot exceed 120 days in a year).
- Preventative baiting is prohibited. SGARs can only be used if an active rodent infestation through monitoring is confirmed.
- All licenses are required to develop and follow a site-specific Rodent Management Plan. Helpful resources include Rodent Management Plan Template and Rodent Management Plan Checklist.
- A licensee may only use SGARs while following the principles of IPM, meaning you must attempt to control through prevention and alternatives prior to using - SGARS - Prevention measures when using SGARS.
- Unused bait and dead rodents must be properly disposed of.
- All licenses must keep daily pesticide use records

when SGARs are used.

- An annual use summary of total quantities of pesticides applied must be submitted to the ministry each calendar year.
- For more information on SGAR use in B.C. please visit: [Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGAR) use in British Columbia - Province of British Columbia]

BAITS AND THEIR USE

Commercial baits can be purchased in several forms including pellets, loose meal, packet baits and wax blocks. Pelleted baits are resistant to moisture but can be easily picked up and hoarded by rodents. Loose meal is less susceptible to being carried off but more susceptible to moisture and will spoil more quickly.

Packet baits may be pelleted or loose. It is easily placed in walls and attics and if the package is breached the presence of rats is evident. Packets are more expensive than bulk baits but also can be labor saving. Paraffin blocks can be used in damp locations where meal or pellet grain baits would become damp and unattractive to rodents.

Bait must either be placed in tamper resistant bait stations or in locations not accessible to children, pets, livestock or wildlife. Secure bait stations to prevent tipping or removal. A bait station comprised of 3.6 cm PVC tube made into a "T" placed upside down along the wall will allow filling from the top, attachment to the wall and will provide a tunnel which the rats will feel safe in when feeding. Bait can be placed in a number of these tubes placed about every 6 metres along the wall. Do not underbait as failure to get a kill with an acute toxicant can lead to bait shyness which will be difficult to overcome. The baiting method may be different depending on the rodent species. Follow the label directions.

When bait packets are used, bait should be kept in its original labeled bag and attached with string, staples or wire to a wall or large object in the area. This prevents bait from being taken away and hoarded, allows for reinspection to determine consumption, and permits proper removal of uneaten baits.

Bait packets must not be indiscriminately thrown into the manure pits. Randomly placed bait packets with no means of removal prior to removing manure from the farm for spreading can be a serious problem for pets, birds, and wild animals. Remember that you can be held responsible for the impact of rodenticides that have left your farm in the manure. ***Children, wildlife, valuable non-target domestic animals including*** breeding horses, cattle, dogs and children can be poisoned by packets left in the manure and spread on land.

Prebaiting is the process of providing some food without poison in it for a few days prior to adding the poison. Rats will sample the new food and eat the same food with confidence later on when it has rat poison in it. This results in an effective kill.

Liquid baits are more effective if no other sources of water are available.

Bait trays are inexpensive but they fail to provide seclusion for the rodent while eating and may expose rodenticide to consumption by other animals. Tamper-proof bait boxes are ideal because they provide undisturbed seclusion for rodents, encouraging them to eat longer while protecting non-target animals and humans. Trays also contain and protect the bait. Bait boxes should be properly labelled and placed out of reach of children.

When baiting mice, rather than rats, use a large number of placements with small amounts of bait rather than a few placements with large amounts of bait. Place mouse baits 3 to 4 metres apart and move them occasionally. Bait in three dimensions to catch mice moving in ceiling spaces and along wall ledges. Use different formulations for mice as sometimes mice will take preference to certain foods.

SAFE USE OF RODENTICIDES

When using rodenticides, always keep the phone number of the poison control centre and the rodenticide manufacturer hotline readily available at the site of baiting, in the farmhouse and in your vehicle, should an emergency arise. For SGAR use, records of pesticide application must be kept (type and date of deployment). Only approved rodenticides should be used and applied according to the label instructions. Simple labels on bait stations such as "Rodent Bait-Poison-Do Not Touch" help to communicate danger to other people. Follow the label instructions of the manufacturer and ensure that all government regulations pertaining to the use and application of these materials are followed. Do not place bait stations where they may be knocked over.

Inventory rodenticides should be locked up and kept safely away from children, unauthorized personnel and animals. Rodenticides and poisoned animals should not be handled with bare hands; use rubber gloves. Dead rodents should be disposed of by burying or by wrapping them in plastic and put in the garbage. Check with local municipal restrictions regarding disposing of rodents in the landfill. More information about disposal can be found at: [Disposal of Rodenticides]

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Rodenticide Rules have Changed: A Guide for Agricultural Operators. B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks. Integrated Pest Management Program. December 2024. **Agricultural Operators Guide: Rodenticide Rules Have Changed**

For more information about this factsheet, or any programs operated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, please reach out by email or phone.

Email: AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca | Phone: 1-877-221-7141