

## Dead Bird Surveillance

You have received a lot of information on the rules around dead bird surveillance over the past week. Some of this information has changed and there has been a significant change since 2014. Below you will find a summary of the most up-to-date information about this very important subject. As always, if you have any questions, please contact your Board office.

### **Why Is Dead Bird Surveillance Necessary?**

Dead bird surveillance mitigates the risk of transmitting Avian Influenza from farm to farm. By testing birds before any movement happens at the farm, we can be sure that the movement won't be a disease transmission vector. Movements include egg pick ups, sending birds to slaughter, feed deliveries, chick placements, manure or litter removal and more.

### **Bins**

Producers/growers within the Primary Control Zone (PCZ) should look for the bins that will be dropped off at the end of driveways for dead bird surveillance. All bins should be delivered by the end of today. If you have not received your bins, please contact your board office. These bins will also contain your sampling schedule. As soon as you receive your bins, look inside for your sampling schedule as some farms may have dead bird sampling on the same day your bins are dropped off.

Bins will be labelled for each farm and for each airspace (sub-premises) with ID to ensure they're not removed from your driveway. Do not reuse bins from 2014 as CFIA may have assigned your farm a different CFIA number.

Please turn your bin upside down if you do not have any dead birds in it. If you don't turn it upside down, the CFIA team must don full personal protective equipment to approach the bin. This is a waste of time and resources that can be avoided by taking the simple action of turning the bin upside down to indicate that it is empty.

Please place your bin in an area near your entrance that makes it easy for the CFIA staff to access it and conduct the sampling. While they will try not to block your driveway, they need to be able to work safely off the road.

### **Sampling**

To have any movement permit approved, flocks and poultry products will need two negative sampling events within a week of the planned movement. This could be either swabbed dead birds with negative results **OR** no dead birds. You are allowed to collect dead birds up to 48 hours before your scheduled sampling date. They must be refrigerated. **Do not freeze birds!** Birds from different days should be bagged separately and marked with different dates. You can put more than one dead bird in a bag.

Birds should be collected if they died of natural causes or were culled due to a normal procedure in place for culling sick birds. **Under no circumstances should you euthanize a healthy bird in order to have a carcass in the bin to sample.**

Please ensure that your Flock Health Questionnaire is consistent with having (or not having) dead birds in your bin. For example, if you indicate on your FHQ that you had to euthanize a bird with a broken wing, that bird should be in your dead bird bin. If you did not euthanize any birds that appeared sick or injured, there shouldn't be any dead birds in your bin.

As a reminder, CFIA only swabs the birds in the bins -- they do not take the birds with them. Producers should dispose of the dead birds in the usual manner once CFIA has swabbed the birds. CFIA marks the bins with coloured tape once they've swabbed the birds.