

Dead Bird Surveillance Using Bins

Dead bird surveillance is necessary to get movement permits approved. By complying with the CFIA rules, your surveillance will get done so that your movement permits can be approved. Not complying with the rules – even if you disagree with them – will result in permits that are in limbo until dead bird surveillance has been completed.

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 once the PCZ has been established. These bins will also contain your sampling schedule. As soon as you receive your bins, look inside for your sampling schedule because some farms may have dead bird sampling on the same day your bins are dropped off.

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.

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. If HPAI occurs in the fall of 2022, you may use the bins from the spring outbreak.

For movement permits to be approved, flocks and poultry products will need two negative sampling events within a week of shipping. This could be either swabbed dead birds with negative results **OR** no dead birds. No dead birds now counts as a negative sample, but the flock health questionnaire must still be provided.

For the purposes of getting a movement permit, having no dead birds to sample (as long as the lack of birds in your bin is consistent with the information on your flock health questionnaire) counts as a clean test. However, if you do not turn your bin upside down to indicate a lack of birds to sample, CFIA counts this as not participating in the scheduled sampling. If you do not participate in the sampling (even inadvertently), your movement permit will be held up. In other words, **turn your bin upside down if you don't have any mortalities on one of your scheduled dead bird sampling days.**

Here are some other tips and tricks to ensure your dead bird surveillance goes as smoothly as possible.

- ✓ Put your bins out before 8 am on the collection day.
- ✓ Make sure your bin is visible from the road and not obscured by trees, shrubs or fences.
- ✓ Do not change the numbers on your bins. The CFIA used the official sub-premise numbers associated with your master premise ID number.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ Empty bins can be weighed down with rocks etc. if you feel there is any chance it will blow away due to high winds in your area.
- ✓ 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.**
- ✓ Remove the coloured tape the CFIA leaves on the bin to indicate to you that the samples have been collected. When you see the tape on the bin, you know you can remove the birds for proper disposal and keep the bins in your yard until the next sampling day.
- ✓ Bins have been stolen from farms. While it seems ridiculous that anyone would want to steal bins, it has happened. Please bring your bins in from the road between sampling days. CFIA suggests that producers/growers write “Biohazard. Do not touch. Property of CFIA” on the side of the bin to discourage would-be thieves.

Once your PCZ has been revoked, please clean the bins you’ve been using for dead bird surveillance and store them for a possible fall outbreak.