

## **New Infected Premises (IPs)**

There has been one new detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in British Columbia since our last industry update on November 29, 2023. The new infected premise is identified as BC-IP-153 and is a turkey farm in Langley, BC. The farm is scheduled for depopulation on December 2, 2023. We can confirm that all previously identified infected farms have been depopulated as of today, December 1, 2023.

The EOC continues to communicate IP information to the allied trades to ensure they have up-to-date information to plan their movements and activities to prevent spread of disease and manage risk in their activities.

***Please continue to report any unusual or unexpected mortality to the CFIA's sick bird line. The phone number is 403.338.5225.***

## **Take Care of Yourself**

All producers/growers and their families are under a tremendous amount of stress right now. If you, or one of your colleagues, friends, or family members are feeling anxious or stressed, don't hesitate to visit the [AgSafe](#) mental health website. They have valuable resources that you may find helpful.

## **Important Surveillance Reminder**

Producers that require surveillance for movement *must* answer their phones when CFIA calls to arrange testing. A message will be left if you don't answer but ensure you call back. CFIA stated on Thursday that they will only call once and will not chase producers down. It is a producer's responsibility to work with CFIA to get testing completed. If you don't, your birds won't be moved and your processor will not have birds to process!

## **Important Reminder for Poultry Producers with Linked Operations**

Please remember, if HPAI is detected on your farm, your entire farm will be placed under quarantine, as will any premises within 200m of the positive premises, and any linked operations with shared ownership, people, and/or equipment. If the disease is determined to be present on your farm, all the birds present on the farm will be ordered disposed. This aligns with the policy of stamping out the virus when it is detected in Canada. If there is a contiguous land parcel under common ownership and shared management next to the premises with HPAI positive birds, it is possible that this premises may be included in the order to dispose as well, unless mitigating biosecurity measures are in place.

Even though some of your flocks may appear healthy, and may have negative test results, there is a high likelihood that crossover of activities between your farms will introduce the virus to the other flocks as well. This has been evidenced through several flocks with shared staff and equipment becoming positive in this outbreak over the last month after a high-risk contact.

Remember that all manure will need to be treated in accordance with the appropriate disposal protocol as well. Regularly managing your manure storage will help to keep this at a minimum in the event of infection. Regular manure management will also greatly assist in expediting the disposal and cleaning and disinfection processes on positive premises.

Farm operations that can demonstrate complete compartmentalization on-site through very strict management and biosecurity practices can apply through their commodity board for a "Distinct Unit"

application. This process of review is complex and requires producers to demonstrate that the farm operation requested to be exempted operates under complete physical and functional separation from the infected barns. “Physical and functional separation” includes:

- absolutely no sharing of personnel or equipment for at least 21 days prior to detection,
- independent access and service points,
- physical distancing and separation (110m minimum),
- independent feed deliveries and storage,
- independent service providers,
- independent egg storage and handling (if applicable),
- independent manure and mortality management, and
- other conditions may also be required based on the site and operational requirements.

In cases where personnel or equipment *are* shared between barns, there must be significant biosecurity measures in place (shower-in, segregated days, dedicated clothing and boots for each barn, etc). **Ensuring that you have written biosecurity protocols to support your practices is critical.**

If infected farms wish to pursue a Distinct Unit Application, they will need the support of their commodity board (or boards if multiple commodities are present on a site). Board staff will be referencing previous biosecurity audits and any resulting corrective actions. They will also consider the farms’ history of compliance and meeting minimum requirements before supporting the advancement of the request to the EOC and on to CFIA.

**As a reminder, biosecurity is the only tool to prevent HPAI from infecting your birds. Be sure that you are regularly managing your manure waste, managing mortality appropriately, keeping your gates closed and premises secure, and using barn dedicated clothing and footwear. Ensure that any service providers are aware of your entry requirements and provided with appropriate biosafety outerwear when entering and exiting your farm. Remember, it is your responsibility to ensure you communicate these requirements to your vendors and suppliers prior to their arrival on-site.**

## **Resources & Reference Material**

*Articles below this point are included for easy reference and are static. All new information is included above this heading.*

### **Movement Permits**

We ask all those applying for movement permits to please be diligent and timely with your applications. Have a question about what permit you need? Visit the [permit page](#) on the CFIA website or call your commodity board.

### **Dead Bird Surveillance**

CFIA has prioritized farms in the 0-3 km zone for DBS. If you are in a 0-3 km zone, you must participate in DBS using your blue bins.

Farms in the 3-10 km zone **ONLY** need to provide DBS samples prior to any movements. These samples are required 24 hours before a movement is scheduled to take place. DBS bins will **NOT** be provided for this type of sampling. CFIA has requested that all mortality be placed in garbage

bags and then put the bags in a 5-gallon bucket or other lidded container. CFIA staff know to look for these containers when conducting pre-movement sampling.

### **Primary Control Zones (PCZs)**

Do you want to know how close you are to a Primary Control Zone? Use the CFIA's [PCZ page](#). Remember, if your farm is touched by a control zone, your premise would normally be included. Control zones are established around infected farms to ensure that the poultry within the zone remain healthy and free of HPAI and to control the spread of the disease.

### **Red Biosecurity Resources**

All poultry farms across British Columbia are extremely vulnerable to HPAI currently. The best way to mitigate your risk is to ensure you're always implementing all the red biosecurity protocols. Please refer to the [BC Poultry Biosecurity Program Reference Guide](#).

### **How to Speed Up Your Compensation Claim**

The CFIA Compensation Unit recently provided the Poultry Association with some advice for producers/growers to speed up their compensation claim. We are all aware of the compensation backlog so we are sharing these tips to in an effort to help you get your compensation as quickly as possible. If CFIA has a complete, error-free package, they will be able to process it much faster.

Compensation is calculated per flock, which for BC poultry farms is based on sub-premise locations. Basing compensation on each flock has significant implications for calculations, but is also sensible based on differing ages and the variety of farms in the province, especially with multiple commodities on a single site.

If you are an IP, especially early in the process of detection and depopulation, remember the following:

- You will be provided a questionnaire shortly after detection. Be careful filling in this questionnaire because returning it incomplete or lacking supporting documentation will create significant lags in processing.
- Split your receipts by sub-premise or allocate by proportion. This includes staff salaries, phone costs, energy, and input costs.
- Submitted, verifiable costs MUST NOT include any tax. Tax is not eligible for cost recovery in compensation. If CFIA is required to remove tax from claims, it adds substantial time to processing as it must be done for every single receipt.
- Submit ONLY the previous 12 months of receipts as supporting documentation. Some producers have submitted 16 to 18 months of documentation, which then must be removed and filtered down to the most recent 12 months. Again, this documentation must be split out per sub-premise.
- Feed contracts and/or feed slips must be provided. Lack of contracts or reports of feed use by sub-premise creates significant delays.

- When providing your General Ledger (GL) to support cost claims, ensure that the amounts align with the amounts provided in the receipts and invoices. This has been an ongoing issue with cost verification. Remember, tax must be removed.
- If you are an egg or hatching egg producer, your egg production data must also be provided and split per flock for the prior 12-month period.

In summary, consider your compensation submissions based on each flock on your farm at the time of detection. If you can allocate those costs and production data and provide them in a complete package for each flock, you will be far ahead of a 200-page scan with unallocated receipts that don't align with the GL. Remember, the more prepared you can be ahead of time, the faster the process can proceed and the faster you receive your payment.