

New Infected Premises (IPs)

There have been no new detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in British Columbia since our last industry update on November 24, 2023. One IP has completed the cleaning and disinfection process and is in the 14-day vacancy period at this time.

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.

Friendly Reminders

On-Farm Manure Management & Storage

All poultry farmers are reminded that stored manure present on your farm is also considered under quarantine if your farm is positive for HPAI. Producers are highly recommended to keep minimal manure stored on site as it can be a significant challenge and create delays during the disposal process as this material must also be treated and incorporated into disposal plans. Please action this as soon as possible through the appropriate removal method according to regulatory requirements and industry guidelines.

Please be diligent when completing movement permit applications and send in the applications as early as possible!

Late and/or incorrect information, such as wrong dates for movements, wrong or incomplete barn numbers cause delays and frustration for everyone during this difficult time. There is a risk that surveillance may not be able to happen within the desired timeframe and permits may not be issued in time. Movement control is sometimes seeing more than 20 permits that need to be changed or corrected within 48 hours; this creates a backlog and additional stress for us, our private veterinarians, and our industry partners. If you have questions about how to complete your permit application, please reach out to your commodity board.

If You Are Contacted by the Media

We'd like to remind producers from all commodities that all media enquiries or requests for interviews should be routed through the EOC via the EOC Communications Officer, [Amanda Brittain](#), 778.386.1917. It's important to ensure that all messaging remains clear, consistent, and up to date with our quickly evolving situation.

If you would like to become a spokesperson for media interviews, please reach out to Amanda. She will help you acquire media training and supply you with relevant key messaging and support, so that you are well equipped to represent your industry.

Dead Bird Surveillance (DBS)

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.

Resources & Reference Materials

Movement Permits

Have a question about what permit you need? Visit the [permit page](#) on the CFIA website or call your commodity board.

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.