

***We have rearranged the information in our updates. At the top of each update, you will find new information. In the section called Resources and Reference Materials, you will find useful information and links to important documents and websites.***

### **New Infected Premises**

There have been new detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in British Columbia since our last industry update on November 17, 2023. The new detections are BC-IP-141 (breeders, Abbotsford), BC-IP-142 (breeders, Chilliwack), and BC-IP-143 (layers, Chilliwack).

The EOC has provided a list of infected farms that have consented for their information to be shared with fellow farmers for the purpose of managing risk. The EOC continues to communicate IP information to the allied trades as it is provided to ensure they have current information to plan their movements and activities to prevent spread of disease and manage risk in their activities. Allied trades that require this information can reach out to the EOC, if they are not already on this list.

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

### **French Speaker Needed**

Occasionally, the Poultry Association receives a request for someone to do a media interview in French. If you speak French fluently and would be willing to do a media interview, please contact Amanda Brittain at 778.386.1917. Media training will be provided and you will be supported with key messaging for all interviews. We can also provide assistance with farm vocabulary if you are a French-speaker but unfamiliar with this specific set of words.

### **Fortis Meter Readings on Hold**

Fortis has instructed their metre readers not to enter any poultry farms in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission, Langley and Surrey due to the HPAI outbreak.

While the temporary hold on meter reading at poultry sites is in place, you can take the following steps to ensure your gas usage is billed accurately and avoid the need for estimates and corrections on future invoices.

- Take a photo of your gas meter on a monthly basis. Ideally, you should take this photo on the dates shown on your past Fortis invoices. Send the meter photo to [gas.customerservice@fortisbc.com](mailto:gas.customerservice@fortisbc.com) or call. 1.888.224.2710.
- Post clear signage outside your property warning that the site is closed to visitors. While all meter readers will be provided with a list of sites not to visit, the signage will act as an additional precaution in case of miscommunication.

### **DBS Reminder**

Please remember that Dead Bird Surveillance (DBS) is mandatory for all producers/growers located in a Primary Control Zone. All bins will be distributed by the end of this week, so CFIA

expects all producers/growers to be participating in DBS beginning as soon as bins are delivered according to your schedule.

If enough farms are not doing DBS properly, CFIA will insist on live bird testing before any movements can take place. Live bird testing is time consuming for both CFIA and individual producers/growers and it means testers need to come on to your farm to perform the tests. Read more about DBS at the bottom of this update and call your commodity board if you have any questions.

### **CFIA's Updated Chick Placement Policy**

Thanks to the efforts and creativity of our industry EOC Movement Control team, CFIA has supported a review and revision of their policy around chick placements and have provided guidance on how placements in the 1 km zone can be accommodated in consideration of industry's need to have chicks move from hatcheries and enter the supply chain. The new policy was circulated with the November 17, 2023 update. Please thank the Movement Control team for their efforts in this and give credit to CFIA for their openness to adapt policy and work with us to find solutions that allow everyone to manage the related risk.

### **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 considered to 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 at this time. The best way to mitigate your risk is to ensure you're implementing all of the red biosecurity protocols at all times. Please refer to the [BC Poultry Biosecurity Program Reference Guide](#).

#### **Take Care of Yourself**

All producers/growers 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.