

New Infected Premises (IPs)

There have been three new detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in British Columbia since our last industry update on December 8. The new infected farms are BC-IP-155 (broilers, Abbotsford), BC-IP-156 (small flock, Kelowna), and BC-IP-157 (small flock, Lumby). We are awaiting the test results from a suspect case from a broiler flock in Abbotsford today. All previously identified infected farms have been depopulated and these farms are in the process of disposal or cleaning and disinfection.

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. Attached to this update you will find an IP status table and an IP and PCZ summary table.

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

DBS is Important!

Dead bird surveillance (DBS) is effective at identifying positive cases before the birds start to show clinical signs of Avian Influenza. DBS has identified 15 cases this fall and that is important because it means that these farms have been identified prior to the infection becoming clinical. These flocks can be destroyed early, before the disease spreads to a neighbouring barn or farm – an important consideration in the Fraser Valley which has the densest population of poultry farms in Canada. Early depopulation also helps to prevent animal welfare concerns that can arise as an infection causes disease symptoms.

If a farm is not showing any clinical signs of Avian Influenza on the day the crew arrives to depopulate it, pre-destruction testing may be conducted to ensure that there are samples available for scientists who study and monitor the behaviour of the disease. So far this fall, only two farms that tested positive via DBS were not showing clinical signs on the day they were scheduled for depopulation.

Participating in DBS is important because:

- It minimizes the need for CFIA or your private veterinarian to go on-farm for live bird testing;
- Active participation in DBS of all farms under active surveillance means that movement permissions can be issued in an efficient manner;
- It is non-invasive;
- and detection via DBS protects neighbouring farms through early detection as described above.

DBS is reliable and only picks up positive cases if your birds have died from HPAI, it is better to know sooner and deal with it rather than wait a few extra days until the disease progresses and risk further spread of the disease.

Manure Management

While this isn't an ideal time of year to remove manure from your farm, if it is at all possible, you are encouraged to remove any excess manure. If you become an Infected Premise, all manure stored on-farm may be required to undergo biological heat treatment (BHT) in the disposal process. This process can be extremely time consuming and expensive.

If you are storing manure on your farm to spread on your fields in the spring, consider separating your manure into discrete piles. Typically, CFIA only requires BHT on manure that has been added to in the 21 days prior to an HPAI detection on your farm. If you have separate piles of manure and records that prove you have not added to a specific pile, you may be exempt from doing BHT on that pile.

Outbreak Update and Information Webinar

Join us on December 19 at 11:30 am for a webinar that will provide an update on the outbreak, information on the potential human health risk, distinct unit application details, and an overview of provincial business risk management programs available to producers. We will conclude with a panel discussion from all of our presenters and answer questions submitted by the audience.

To register, visit [this link](#), or click the link below.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3vUyvATcQUS_03zr4tQmsQ

Help Us Improve Our Communications to You

The EOC is looking for your feedback on how and what we communicate. We know that producers and allied trade members receive information from multiple pathways. We want to ensure that the information we are providing you is timely and relevant to you and your business. Please complete the survey at the link below, or by clicking [here](#) by December 23.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EOCCOMMS23>

Resources & Reference Material

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

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.

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 Requirements

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](#).