

POULTRY BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

Industry Notice #1

September 8, 2006

Background

The BC Poultry Biosecurity Program is one part of an industry strategy that is designed to address the risks associated with Avian Influenza and other potential disease outbreaks in the poultry industry. Funding for the various initiatives is being provided by Agriculture and Agric-Food Canada (AAFC) – Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program (ACAAF) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Funding is administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF).

Mandatory Biosecurity Standards

Eighteen mandatory biosecurity standards have been developed to improve biosecurity on all regulated poultry flocks. These standards were presented to industry in late May where they were discussed and received general acceptance. The relevant Boards and Commissions are currently proceeding to include these mandatory biosecurity standards in their respective general orders and develop auditing capacity.

BCPA Biosecurity Program

The BCPA Biosecurity Committee is completing an education and funding program to assist producers in preparing for the new mandatory standards. Based on the Environmental Farm Program, the BC Poultry Biosecurity Plan will provide producers with access to trained Planning Advisors who will assist them in developing and implementing Biosecurity Plans.

Funding assistance will be available to Producers through both the BC Poultry Biosecurity Program and the National Farm Stewardship (EFP) Programs. These programs will assist with the cost of implementing measures deemed necessary to achieve Board and Commission certification.

Planning Advisors and Auditors will be undertaking training during the week of October 16 – 20. The first versions of the Poultry Biosecurity Planning Workbook and Reference Guide were approved for a first draft printing in early September.

Producers will be able to access Planning Advisor services in late October or early November. The next industry bulletin will provide greater program detail along with contact information for producers.

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