

B.C. POULTRY INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY/EMERGENCY RESPONSE STRATEGIC PLAN

NOTICE TO INDUSTRY # 1 *March 6, 2006*

Avian Influenza was detected on poultry farms in British Columbia in the spring of 2004 and again in the fall of 2005. The poultry industry has estimated the losses in 2004 at \$381 million. Following the 2004 outbreak in B.C., industry and government held several "post-mortem" conferences and meetings to discuss lessons learned and to identify improvements to biosecurity and emergency response approaches and protocols. A common theme that emerged from these events was: ***disease outbreaks are difficult to control and it is far better to prevent them or limit their impact through defensive measures.***

To that end, the B.C. poultry industry has been actively developing enhanced biosecurity programs and emergency response plans and programs with government assistance. The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada are providing financial assistance and technical expertise. The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. is administering the funding.

During the November 2005 Avian Influenza outbreak, private practice veterinarians working for the poultry industry observed and commented that industry's biosecurity protocols had improved considerably. Some of the accomplishments that have contributed to improved biosecurity and emergency response during the 2005 outbreak are:

- Appointment of a committee (Poultry Industry Advisory Management Committee) to develop a strategic plan and guide a suite of projects related to Biosecurity and Emergency Response Planning.
- Establishment of industry/government Poultry Industry Biosecurity and Poultry Industry Emergency Response Committees.
- Development of a biosecurity manual which has since been distributed to all poultry producers, some specialty producers and allied trade representatives.
- Development and delivery of biosecurity workshops for producers.
- Preliminary work on biosecurity protocols for catching crews.
- Development of Terms of Reference and the recruitment of contractors to develop and deliver a biosecurity program. Contractors will report to the Poultry Industry Advisory Management Committee through the Poultry Industry Biosecurity Committee. Contractors will be working on program development activities from March 1 to June 30, 2006,.
- Development of a framework for the Poultry Industry Emergency Response Plan.
- Development of Terms of Reference to recruit resources to implement the Emergency Response Plan is in progress.

The various funding sources are described in the following table:

Funding Source	Amount	Conditions
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) – Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program (ACAAF)	\$1.5 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be used to develop and implement pilot projects in B.C. that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ actively engage the poultry sector to contribute to the development and adoption of biosecurity protocols; ○ expand the poultry sector’s capacity to prevent and respond to zoonotic disease infections in commercial and non-commercial flocks; and ○ integrate sector-led piloted and tested projects into future federal, provincial, territorial government and industry initiatives. • Projects must provide shared outcomes and be industry-led solutions. Projects must lead to the achievement of goals set in the strategic plan.
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL)	\$1.5 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be used to implement projects identified in the strategic plan.
	\$250,000 Conditional Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For development of an enhanced poultry surveillance program in British Columbia. • For development of a B.C. Poultry Industry Biosecurity/Emergency Response Strategic Plan.

Project and Contracting Opportunities

Funding is available for projects that address Poultry Biosecurity and Emergency Response. Interested applicants should refer to the strategic plan for guidance in developing proposals. For further information, contact the project administrator.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Poultry Industry Advisory Management Committee. This industry-led committee will provide recommendations to IAF on approval of appropriate projects.

Contracting opportunities identified by the committee will be advertised on industry and association web sites and those of the Investment Agriculture Foundation (<http://www.iafbc.ca/>) and B.C. Agriculture Council (<http://www.bcac.bc.ca/>). B.C. Institute of Agrologists and industry and association mailing lists may also be used.

More Information

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