

THE CHICKEN FARMER

Senators Call Fowl on Government Inaction on Import Concerns, Underscore Need for DNA Test

Senators have joined the Canadian chicken sector in calling on the government to act on the importation of broiler meat that is being falsely declared as spent fowl in order to circumvent border controls.

During the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry meeting on June 16, 2016, senators expressed their frustration with the lack of movement to address the growing evidence of fraudulent spent fowl imports. Witnesses at the Committee meeting included government officials representing the inter-departmental working group on chicken industry import circumvention issues: Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Canadian Border Services Agency, Global Affairs Canada, and Finance Canada.

Imports of spent fowl – which are almost exclusively from the U.S. with 99.9% of imports – have dramatically increased in the past five years, from 83 million kilograms in 2011 to 103 million kilograms in 2015, and the numbers are growing again in 2016.

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From January to May 2014, spent fowl imports were 31 million kilograms, and over the same timeframe the following year, they totaled 35 million kilograms; however between January and May 2016, they jumped to 48 million kilograms.

While technological advances in food processing and manufacturing may have expanded the uses for spent fowl meat and brought about an increase in its legitimate importation, questions arise when spent fowl import volumes exceed the exporting country's total spent fowl production. As Senator Mercer remarked during the Committee meeting, "That's a good deal if you can export more than you actually produce."

In 2012, Canada imported from the United States the equivalent of 101% of the entire American annual spent fowl volume, and it looks as though even more confounding circumstances will prevail in 2016. In the first four months of 2016, an estimated 109% of America's spent fowl production has entered the Canadian market.

The impact of this fraud is significant. When Canada imported the equivalent of 95.5% of the United States' entire spent fowl production in 2015, this included an estimated minimum of 37 million kilograms of broiler meat that was smuggled into the country under the guise of spent fowl.

These illegal imports represent a loss of 2,771 jobs to the Canadian work force, \$208.5 million in contributions to the national economy, and \$69.6 million in taxes.

As with everything, the devil is in the details. In terms of spent fowl, these details are found in the types of cuts that make up imports. Boneless breast meat has become the most popular imported cut of spent fowl; since 2009, imports of boneless spent fowl breast meat have grown 318%.

In just the first five months of 2016, Canada has imported almost 13.6 million kilograms of boneless spent fowl breast meat; this is already nearly half of all the imports of that cut brought into Canada in 2015. This increase is most concerning as boneless broiler breast meat is visually indistinguishable from boneless spent fowl breast meat, so it is the easiest to smuggle past border officials, while presenting the greatest profit incentive to do so.

In the June 16th committee meeting, senators were quick to identify the issue of visual indistinguishability as underscoring the need for DNA testing for import verification. Senator Ogilvie emphasized how important this is "because, if you can bring in spent fowl at zero tariff and then repackage it and sell it as breast meat, the unfair competitive advantage within the Canadian market is obvious."

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Senators questioned the effectiveness of current record verification methods in being able to identify mislabeled broiler meat, and called for a more stringent process that would ensure the legitimacy of spent fowl imports, and improve import predictability for the chicken industry.

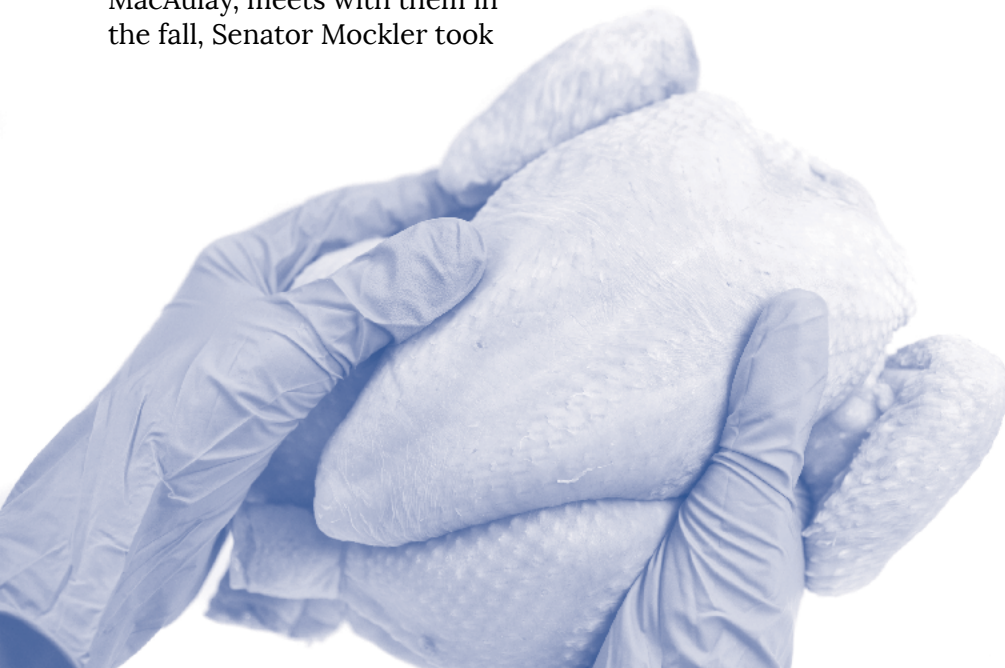
Such a process would require mandatory certification while relying on a DNA verification test, like the one already developed by Chicken Farmers of Canada and Trent University, to ensure compliance. Senator Plett advised witnesses to “figure out how we can do this”, and suggested that the government “ask the farmers how we can do this, because I bet they would have a good answer for you.”

While senators promised to give this issue priority when the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Minister MacAulay, meets with them in the fall, Senator Mockler took

the opportunity to do just this a few days later, when the minister appeared before the Senate’s Question Period on June 21st.

The senator asked when the government intends to “implement the DNA test that was developed by Trent University to distinguish between chicken and spent fowl vis-à-vis the illegal importation of chicken into Canada.” Minister MacAulay reassured the senator that the government, aware of the importance of this issue, is currently evaluating the situation and will be addressing it once all the information was available.

The Senate Committee and the chicken sector look forward to hearing about the government’s plan to move this issue forward when the minister appears before the Committee later this year. **CF**





Cuso International Matches Highly-Skilled Canadians With Opportunities Around The World

You work hard to bring Canadians fresh, high-quality chicken every day. Ready to use your skills to ensure farmers around the world can do the same?

This is only one example of the many farmers who work alongside Cuso International volunteers in Nigeria and around the world.

Manitoba's Murray Stow has first-hand experience in what it takes to bring products to market.

Stow trained in agricultural economics, agribusiness and project management and throughout his career has built skills in developing export markets and logistic supply chains.

Through a placement with Cuso International, Stow worked with Peruvian organization Takiwasi, which works hand-in-hand with indigenous communities to promote the sustainable harvesting of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Cuso International matches highly skilled Canadians with opportunities around the world. There is currently a great demand for farmers and agricultural professionals who can fill placements in livestock production, supply chain logistics, agribusiness development, and more.

While Stow's placement took him to the jungles of Peru with his wife Lynette, there are opportunities in other countries such as Tanzania, Myanmar and Cameroon. Cuso provides a comprehensive training program that prepares volunteers for the




Murray and Lynette Stow (right)

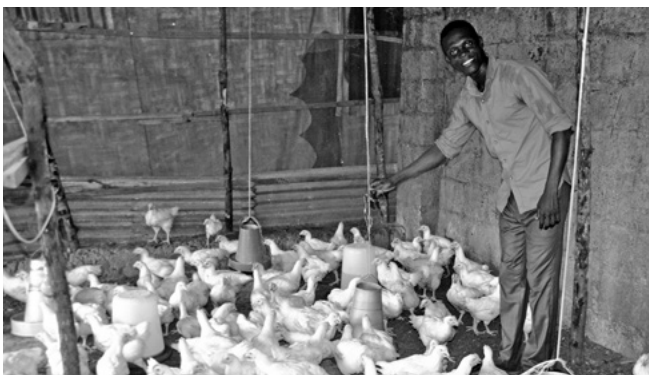
experience, along with a financial support package, including flights, accommodation and a stipend that allows for a safe and healthy lifestyle. Professional staff in each country support the needs of volunteers.

And while this isn't your regular work environment, volunteers learn to embrace the unusual. "It was unexpected to experience tap-water shortages during the rainy season in the Amazon," says Stow. "The noise level was another surprise: Life in the selva is cheerfully and boisterously LOUD!"

Stow highly recommends this experience to other professionals: "You can make a positive impact in areas where the needs are great. The experience will have an impact on you, too."

Want to know more?
See current postings at www.cusointernational.org/placements/ or contact Christine at 1-888-434-2876 x 222. 

VICTOR UZODIFE DREAMED OF OWNING A FLOURISHING POULTRY FARM, HOWEVER LACK OF FINANCE AND SKILL PUT HIS AMBITIONS ON HOLD. IN 2015, HE HEARD ABOUT CUSO INTERNATIONAL'S TRAINING FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN NIGERIA. SINCE PARTICIPATING IN A TWO WEEK ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING, VICTOR HAS SUCCESSFULLY RAISED AND SOLD HIS FIRST FLOCK OF 250 BIRDS AND IS CURRENTLY RAISING HIS SECOND FLOCK OF 350 BIRDS.




Victor Uzodife



The 2016 Chicken Data Booklet Delivers Overhead View of Chicken Industry

Chicken Farmers of Canada publishes a Chicken Data Booklet on a yearly basis. This year's Data Booklet was released at the Summer Meeting in Toronto, Ontario.

The majority of the recipients of the booklet are chicken farmers, processors, further processors, retailers, restaurateurs, and a variety of other industry stakeholders. Government departments and universities may also receive copies upon request. The booklet is also posted online and can be a valuable resource year-round. 

Highlights from this year's edition:

- Per Capita Consumption of Chicken in 2015 was 31.9 kg, up 1.0 kg from the year prior.
- Canadians consumed 100 Mkg more chicken in 2015 than they did in 2010.
- Canada produced 1.1 billion kg of chicken in 2015.
- Canada ranked 18th in the world for per capita consumption of chicken, and 17th for production.
- There was a combined total of \$2.4 billion in farm cash receipts for chicken in 2015.
- In 2015, there were over 2,800 chicken producers in Canada.
- Exports of chicken were 176 Mkg in 2015, a 4% increase from 2014.
- Imports of chicken were 214 Mkg in 2015, a 12% increase from 2014.

For more information or to find the 2016 Chicken Data Booklet, please visit us online at www.chickenfarmers.ca/resources/ or to request a hard copy, email us at cfc@chicken.ca.



NEWS FROM THE HILL



We found our #MPChickenHero!

Dr. Robert-Falcon Ouellette, MP from Winnipeg Centre, Manitoba, won a \$10,000 donation to a food bank in his riding and is officially Canada's #MPChickenHero!



The #MPChickenHero contest saw 81 Members of Parliament submit their favourite sandwich recipes in a bid to have them selected as the recipe that was served to 10,000 people at the Great Canadian Chicken BBQ in Ottawa on July 1st.

The panel of celebrity judges included Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, Member of Provincial Parliament John Fraser (Ottawa-South), and Kevin McHale from the Spark Street BIA.

CHICKEN FARMERS OF CANADA
CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE
MISSION OF THE OTTAWA
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\$370,000 HAS BEEN RAISED FOR
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SINCE JOINING THE FIGHT TO
END HUNGER.

After much deliberation, the winners were selected:

1st place: Dr. Robert-Falcon Ouellette from Winnipeg Centre, Manitoba

\$10,000 Grand Prize to be donated to a food bank in his riding

Recipe: Canadian Chicken Slaw Sandwich

2nd place: The Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould from Vancouver Granville, British Columbia

\$5,000 Second Place Prize to be donated to a food bank in her riding

Recipe: Grilled Canadian Chicken Sandwich with Sundried Tomato Mayo

3rd Place: Doctor Colin Carrie from Oshawa, Ontario

\$2,500 Third Place Prize to be donated to a food bank in his riding

Recipe: Great Canadian Greek Sandwich

That's a total donation of \$17,500 for three food banks, and that's on top of the 50 cents from each sandwich or salad sold at the BBQ, which is donated to the Ottawa Food Bank.

Chicken Farmers of Canada continues to support the mission of the Ottawa Food Bank and over nearly \$370,000 has been raised for this Ottawa institution since joining the fight to end hunger.

A video of the judging can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkqfOZzcxE4&feature=youtu.be and the winning recipes are available at www.chickenfarmers.ca/2016/06/mpchickenhero-winners-are/.

CHICKEN FARMERS CHARGE THE HILL

Chicken Farmers of Canada hosted the annual Lobby Day on May 31, 2016, in order to increase awareness of our industry, discuss the issues, and build better relationships with new and old MPs.

Lobby Day allowed each province to have constructive, thoughtful conversations with representatives from their provinces regarding topics such as spent fowl, CBSA's Duties Relief Program, specially defined mixtures, antimicrobial resistance and use, and Bill C-246. Our industry was represented by Directors, Alternates, provincial board managers, and provincial Directors and producers. With a new government in Ottawa, many MPs were unaware of the complexities of the Canadian chicken industry, in addition to the impressive economic contribution the industry makes.

Throughout the three days that representatives were in Ottawa, groups had the opportunity to meet with:

- 2 Ministers
- 2 Senators
- 6 Parliamentary Secretaries
- 1 Party Leader
- 62 MPs
- 4 Ministerial senior office staff

Chicken Farmers of Canada representatives were able to meet with some key players on our files, such as the Minister of Health, the Parliamentary Secretaries to the Ministers of Public Safety, Agriculture, and International Trade, and the Chair of rural caucus.

Chicken Farmers of Canada were pleased to welcome around 300 people – including 72 MPs and 7 Senators – at the evening reception held at the Château Laurier on the 31st. This gave both industry representatives and parliamentarians the opportunity to interact with those they hadn't had a chance to meet with during the day. Since the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food was in China, the Parliamentary Secretary and an Agriculture Committee member were on hand to give remarks on his behalf.

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LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Chicken Farmers of Canada staff and directors were in attendance over the weekend of May 26–28 when Winnipeg played host to the Liberal Party of Canada's biennial convention. With over 2,000 delegates, Chicken Farmers of Canada representatives had the opportunity to interact with MPs, Ministers and their staff, party officials and local volunteers. The Convention provided a view of where the party is going, with key priorities such as indigenous affairs, women, the environment, and climate change being discussed at sessions. The party also adopted a modernized and strengthened party constitution in Winnipeg.

There were very few policy resolutions adopted pertaining to agriculture, with the most important to the chicken industry being: "Be it resolved that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the government of Canada, working with the provinces and territories, to undertake a pan-Canadian consultation on the TPP by conducting public hearings across the country before parliamentary consideration of its ratification."

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA CONVENTION 2016

The weekend of May 26–28 also saw Chicken Farmers of Canada delegates attend the Conservative Party of Canada convention in Vancouver – with a focus on rebuilding the party, and finding fresh, creative ideas to reinvigorate the Conservative base. The party wants to remind Canadians that they are the party for all Canadians due to its history

in supporting both rural and urban backgrounds.

As the Conservatives will be seeking a new leader next year, the convention was the first time the party had really discussed the leadership question as hopefuls Maxime Bernier, Michael Chong, and Kelli Leitch each debated their ideas for rebirth. There was limited discussion of supply management, farming and agriculture, and at that point, Bernier had not yet given any indication that he supported abolishing supply management.

There was only one agriculture-related policy that was brought forward during the convention, outlining that: "The Conservative Party supports that agriculture, agri-food, fisheries, mining, tourism and forestry must be a priority for the federal government. We believe that the future sustainability of rural Canada comes through flexible, innovative policy, based on principles of realistic economic profitability."

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE

For the third year in a row, Chicken Farmers of Canada, along with Egg Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada, and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, sponsored this year's Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference and Trade Show, held in Winnipeg from June 2–5.


FCM is the national voice of Canada's municipal governments – representing over 2,000 municipalities from coast to coast to coast – and ensuring

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their interests are heard by the federal government. Members include Canada's largest cities, small urban and rural communities, and over 20 provincial and territorial municipal associations.

This year's conference theme was "Municipalities: The Heart of Canada." The theme outlined how a united municipal sector is helping to shape Canada's future. This supports FCM's objective of helping the new federal government meet its priorities.

By sponsoring a booth and kiosk at the trade show, the poultry groups showcased how Canada's supply-managed farmers contribute to the vibrancy of communities from coast to coast, and are connected in a way that allows the sector to contribute in a unique way to Canada's future. Local farmers and industry staff served up delicious chicken, turkey, and egg treats throughout the weekend, proving to be the most popular booth at the trade show.

Over the four day conference, FCM offered Study Tours for delegates interested in learning more about certain industries. On Saturday afternoon we were pleased to take 30 delegates to AgDon Farms, a broiler chicken farm 35 minutes outside of downtown Winnipeg. Don and Agnes Neufeld gave delegates an introduction to their farm, family history, and biosecurity, before taking delegates to a viewing window they had installed to allow visitors to see into the barn. 





CPRC UPDATE

Researching Antibiotic Alternative Strategies

For the past four years now, Chicken Farmers of Canada have been implementing an antimicrobial use strategy that focuses on five elements:

1. Defining use and analyzing resistance trends
2. Reviewing best management practices and reducing use
3. Ensuring effective controls of antimicrobial use in Canada
4. Researching and determining the availability of alternative products
5. Educating stakeholders on the issues of antimicrobial use and resistance

of vaccines, understanding the impact of pathogens, and antibiotic alternatives.

Here is a brief look at just some of the research and the research teams whose work in these areas has been supported by the poultry industry through CPRC. The full research profiles will be available online (<http://www.chickenfarmers.ca/what-we-do/innovation/>) – check it out!

A number of the projects funded by these researchers have been part of the Poultry Clusters (the second of which is still on-going). The Clusters have brought together scientists from various fields to work on priority issues for the industry. With large matching funds from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Cluster projects are a great way to make the most of available resources.

Aside from the actual research results, one of the huge benefits of supporting these researchers has been in the number and quality of students they have trained and inspired with an interest in poultry; a number of their students continue to work in and contribute to the poultry industry today.

IN TERMS OF REDUCING
USE, THE ENTIRE
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IMPORTANT TO HUMAN
MEDICINE) IN 2014.

Significant progress has been made in a number of those areas. In terms of reducing use, the entire chicken industry eliminated the preventive use of Category I antibiotics (those most important to human medicine) in 2014. Further reduction strategies are currently being considered.

The fourth element of researching alternative strategies has been an on-going effort through the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC). To date, the Canadian poultry industry has invested over \$3.5 million through CPRC, which has been matched by government and other agencies to over \$18 million. Nearly half of this research funding has been directed towards gut health, development

DR. JOSHUA GONG, AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA

Dr. Gong is a Researcher Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), based in Guelph. CPRC has supported a number of projects from Gong's research team who have done a great deal of work on priority issues for the poultry industry. Gong has also been a valuable collaborator with CPRC since its inception, providing consultation advice during the forming of the council and serving on the scientific advisory committee to evaluate research proposals submitted to CPRC.

The very first project funded by CPRC was a collaboration with Dr. Gong and Dr. Shayan Sharif (University of Guelph) investigating how antibiotics change the gut microflora in broiler chickens and how those microbial changes can affect chicken immune response. The knowledge gained from this study led to the later work by both research groups on developing effective probiotics.

Gong also worked on technology to encapsulate essential oils for effective protection and delivery to the chicken gut, and on-farm trials will be starting soon with the potential of bringing the product one step closer to the marketplace.

Gong collaborated with Dr. John Prescott (University of Guelph) to develop vaccines for controlling necrotic enteritis, one of the most common enteric diseases of poultry. A great deal of work has gone into this, not only here in Canada but worldwide and huge progress has been made over the last 5–10 years.

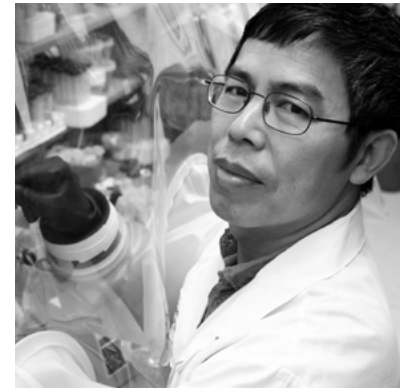
DR. JOHN PRESCOTT, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Dr. Prescott has been a professor at the University of Guelph for over 35 years and his research in the last 7–8 years has focussed on necrotic enteritis (NE) in chickens. The overall goal of Prescott's research on NE has been to gain a better understanding of the disease, to understand the detailed process of how *C. perfringens* causes NE, to find the weak points of the bacteria to know how it can be controlled, and to try to produce a vaccine for it.

Prescott's early work on NE demonstrated that, in principle, it was indeed possible to immunize against *C. perfringens*. A great deal of work was done to find what material or substrate to immunize with. Two antigens were identified as the best candidates for immunization, and these are the ones that Prescott and others around the world are now focussing on.

Prescott's team later found that there are two particular strains that cause NE and this was critical information in understanding exactly how *C. perfringens* causes disease.

Prescott's more recent work looked at gaining a better understanding the bacterium and looking for better antigens to use in a vaccine. The output from this work has been shared in a freely available gene databank for the benefit of researchers worldwide trying to solve this problem.



Dr. Joshua Gong



Dr. John Prescott

Photo: Natalie Lemieux, University of Guelph

DR. SHAYAN SHARIF, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Dr. Sharif is a Professor at the University of Guelph, with a research focus on the chicken immune system. Dr. Sharif has also worked with CPRC since its inception, providing consultation advice during the forming of the council, having a number of projects funded by the organization, and participating on the CPRC scientific advisory committee. He also leads the Poultry Health Research Network, a collaboration of experts working on key issues for the poultry industry. The group has an up-to-date website (phrn.net) and active twitter account (@PHRN_) – check them out for updates!

As an extension of their earlier work on microbial changes due to antibiotics, Sharif and Gong have collaborated in the development of a probiotic formulation containing several lactobacilli. Thus far they have demonstrated that it safe to use and has the ability to enhance immune responses and also to reduce *Salmonella* burden in chickens. Work is continuing to further develop and refine the probiotic formulation, and further tests are planned to evaluate its economic viability for on-farm use.

Sharif has also worked on a variety of ways to reduce *Campylobacter jejuni* in the chicken gut, one of them being the development of a vaccine. *C. jejuni* is found naturally in the chicken gut, but is a major public health concern because of the number of human illnesses caused by it. In pilot studies, Sharif demonstrated that the vaccine reduces numbers of *C. jejuni* in the chicken gut by approximately 50-fold, and work is continuing to perfect the formulation and evaluate the best delivery methods.




Dr. Shayan Sharif

DR. BOGDAN SLOMINSKI, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Dr. Slominski is a Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry in the Department of Animal Science, University of Manitoba. Slominski has worked with CPRC since its inception and has further contributed to the Council by serving on the scientific advisory committee.

For the last 20 years Slominski and his team have been researching a new generation of multi-carbohydrase enzymes for improved nutrient utilization and growth performance, and as a potential alternative to antibiotics. All of this work has culminated in the development of two products for use in poultry feed- Superzyme CS™ and Superzyme OM™, which are registered with Canadian Bio-Systems Inc.

Slominski subsequently worked to combine the multi-carbohydrase enzymes with yeast products in order to release bioactives to further facilitate gut health and food safety. The research thus far has demonstrated that in broiler chickens with necrotic enteritis the enzyme/yeast prebiotic had similar beneficial effects on feed conversion and nutrient utilization as antibiotics. The prebiotic was also effective in minimizing *Salmonella* colonization and shedding in broiler chickens and laying hens. 



Dr. Bogdan Slominski

New Poultry Code of Practice – What’s Changed?

In the last *Chicken Farmer* issue, we announced that the new Code of Practice has been finalized. In this article we’re providing more details in terms of what’s new.

The Code process, led by the National Farm Animal Care Council, sets the national standard for farmed animal welfare in Canada. Chicken Farmers of Canada’s Animal Care Program (ACP) is based on the previous version of the Code, and will be updated soon to be in line with this new Code.

Having this single standard and being a part of the development process is a benefit for our industry. It allows farmers to have input into this important document and to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders to achieve buy-in. This is critical when promoting the Animal Care Program as the one national standard for all chicken farmers. With a lifespan of about 10 years between revisions, there is stability for farmers in this process.

Here are some of the highlights of what is different in the new Code compared to the current ACP. While the Code also deals with hatcheries, turkeys, and breeders, this summary focuses just on the requirements for broilers.

TEMPERATURE AND AIR QUALITY

This section of the Code is not vastly different from the current ACP. Both require that heating and ventilation systems be inspected daily and kept in good working order. The ACP describes thermal comfort and what to observe in the birds, and the Code requires that bird behaviour be observed and corrective action taken if they are showing signs of thermal discomfort.



Steps must be taken if ammonia levels get too high, with the limit in the ACP being 25 ppm, while the Code specifies a range of 20-25 ppm. This range is in line with ammonia test strips, which are sensitive between 20 and 25 ppm and are an inexpensive and easy way to measure ammonia.

LIGHTING

With an abundance of recent research on lighting programs, a number of new requirements are in the Code around lighting and minimum periods of darkness. After the first 24 hours chicks must be provided with 1 hour of darkness and this must be gradually increased to 4 hours of darkness by day 5. These 4 hours of consecutive darkness must be provided until at least 7 days prior to shipping. Darkness is defined as no more than 20% of the intensity of the light period. So if the daytime lighting is 10 lux, for example, the night time must be no more than 2 lux.

These new requirements are in line with other international programs which require 4 or more

WHILE THE CODE
ALSO DEALS WITH
HATCHERIES, TURKEYS,
AND BREEDERS,
THIS SUMMARY
FOCUSES JUST ON
THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR BROILERS.

hours of darkness, as well as the recommendations in the Cobb and Ross production manuals. Significant research exists to support these lighting requirements, both in terms of animal welfare and productivity.

STOCKING DENSITY

The stocking density limits in the new Code are the same as our current program, with 31 kg/m² as the regular density level and an ability to increase density to a maximum of 38 kg/m² if certain conditions are met. The high density conditions are very similar to those in the ACP. In addition, the Code requires that health and injury data, if available from processors, must be used to determine if density is contributing to recurring health or welfare problems (e.g. foot pad and breast lesions, cellulitis, bruises).

BIRD MONITORING AND HANDLING

This section of the ACP is very similar to the new Code, with requirements for checking the birds and what to observe for and ensuring barn readiness before chicks arrive. The Code specifically requires that birds must not be carried solely by the head, neck, wing, or tail feathers

HEALTH CARE PRACTICES

The Code requires that cull birds, in addition to mortalities, must be recorded. In the ACP this is an additional requirement specific to production between 31 and 38 kg/m². The Code also includes more specific requirements around euthanasia, with a separate appendix listing the acceptable euthanasia methods and the conditions that must be met for them to be considered acceptable. Mechanical cervical dislocation tools must be purpose-designed and all euthanasia devices must be proven effective for the

size and species it is used for, properly maintained, and used according to manufacturers' instructions, if applicable.

CATCHING AND LOADING

The new Code includes a number of requirements for the catching and loading process. Some of these relate specifically to the tasks of the catching crew, but many of them can be overseen by the farmer. Flocks must be evaluated for fitness prior to transport and birds unfit for transport must be euthanized, separated or transported with special provisions for treatment. Wet birds must not be loaded in cold weather if there is a risk they will become chilled. When loading birds the flock and environmental conditions, as well as expected journey duration, must be taken into consideration.

WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT

Both the Code and the ACP require that personnel are competent in the tasks they are assigned. The Code further requires that a code of conduct covering bird welfare be developed and a template is provided in an appendix. A similar template was previously distributed by Chicken Farmers of Canada through the provincial chicken boards. Personnel must be monitored and receive additional training as necessary.

NEXT STEPS

Chicken Farmers of Canada is consulting with provincial boards, the Production Committee, and Directors as the Animal Care Program is updated to align with this new Code. Changes to the ACP will be communicated to producers well ahead of being implemented. 

