

THE CHICKEN FARMER

First Annual Canadian National Chicken Month

September was National Chicken Month! A month to celebrate hard working chicken farmers and their commitment to consumers and dedication to producing healthy chickens! To celebrate, Chicken Farmers of Canada launched a campaign which included several activities and contests to engage the public and spread awareness about National Chicken Month.

There were three main events happening throughout September, along with numerous activities at the provincial level – two contests and a government relations campaign. One of the contests was a “Pool-Peeps colouring contest”. We posted a Pool-Peeps inspired image to be coloured on our Facebook, Twitter, and our

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website, and asked children (and adults too!) to colour it in and submit it. We then picked our favourite and sent the winner a prize pack, which included the full set of Pool-Peeps of course! This contest also got the CFC staff inspired, and we held a little colouring contest of our own here at the office. The winner of



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this contest was chosen by the Chair, Dave Janzen, and the winner walked away with a fancy engraved cutting board.

The winning drawing had the following attributes:

- The colouring is fantastic
- The background stylistically featured the Canada flag
- Taste, value and appeals to all ages
- The commentary covers all the basic attributes of chicken

The second contest held, was the “Chefs D’Œuvres” cooking contest. This fun cook-off saw an Olympian swimmer (Yuri Kisil) and a Paralympian swimmer (Benoît Huot) each square off against a farmer (Erna Ference and Benoît Fontaine, respectively) to cook different chicken dishes. The public then got to vote on which chicken dish was their favourite.



You could see that both the athletes and farmers really got into the spirit of the competition!

Finally, throughout September, we urged urban city mayors to join in for National Chicken Month in their city. We asked the public to send tweets to their mayors and encourage them to support September as Chicken Month. We hope that with this push, we can go federally next year and have an entire month of appreciation for chicken farmers that is nationally-recognized. **CF**

CIPARS Surveillance Bulletin Shows Positive Impact of Industry Category I Ban

Chicken Farmers of Canada have been partnering with the Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) since 2012. CIPARS conducts surveillance at the farm-level for both antibiotic resistance and use, as well as for resistance at the abattoir and at retail levels. This partnership with the government is a part of our industry-wide Antimicrobial Use Strategy, one component of which is enhanced surveillance so we can better understand resistance and usage trends.

In May 2014, the chicken industry eliminated the preventive use of Category I antibiotics (those considered most important to human medicine, including third generation Cephalosporins). The latest CIPARS bulletin demonstrates a reduced use of Category I antibiotics, corresponding with the industry ban, indicating that it was successfully implemented.

The bulletin also shows a decreasing resistance to third generation Cephalosporins in *Salmonella* from chickens on

farms, at slaughter and at retail on a national level. Resistance to third generation Cephalosporins in *E. coli* was also less in 2014 compared to 2013 on a national level.

This bulletin only examines data through the end of 2014 and additional reports will be provided once 2015 data analysis is complete.

This data is certainly encouraging and the entire industry should be commended for successfully implementing this important antimicrobial reduction. **CF**

Online Biosecurity Evaluation Tool

Updated your biosecurity plans lately? As part of the Chicken Farmers of Canada's On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program (OFFSAP) it is recommended that all standard operating procedures (SOPs) be reviewed on an annual basis. OFFSAP requires that SOPs must be maintained for staff and visitor biosecurity protocols, access procedures for the farm, pest control measures, cleaning and disinfection procedures, manure management, mortality management, and farm emergency protocols.

All this and more is covered by a free online biosecurity evaluation tool developed by the Veterinary Epidemiology Unit of Ghent University in Belgium. Biocheck.ugent® is a risk based scoring tool to evaluate the quality of biosecurity on your farm. Although it was developed outside of Canada, the aspects that it covers and information it provides can be relevant to Canadian farms as well.

The online questionnaire can be filled out for free, and a report is generated at the end with an overall biosecurity score for your farm, along with scores for individual components. To be able to save your report, the website suggests creating a free account as well – but this is not a requirement to completing the questionnaire and seeing your farm's results.

All relevant components of biosecurity on a broiler chicken farm are covered, and are divided into external (entry of visitors and personnel, purchasing chicks, supply of materials, etc.) and

internal biosecurity measures (disease management, cleaning and disinfection).

This scoring system is unique in that it takes the relative importance of the different biosecurity aspects into account, providing a risk-based weighted score. Reports and scores are provided immediately after completing the questionnaire, but keep in mind that the averages provided are from Belgian farms and their standards are not exactly the same as for the OFFSAP. It is, however, still a useful tool to evaluate your operation.

Check out **www.biocheck.ugent.be/v4/home** to complete the questionnaire for your farm, and for lots more information on the current science related to on-farm biosecurity. Unfortunately, the tool is not currently available in French.

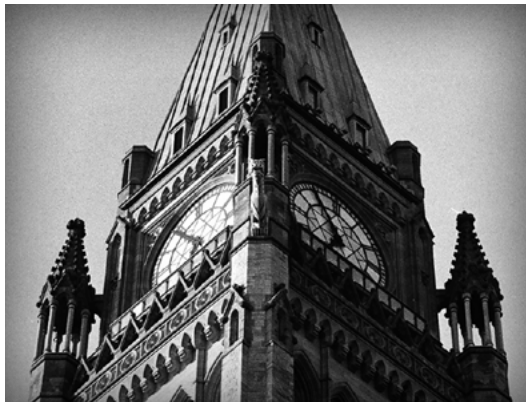
This is a particularly relevant exercise – reviewing your biosecurity plans – as we head into the fall migration season.

While avian influenza can occur at any time (for example, like the most recent case found on a duck farm in Ontario in July), there is a much higher incidence of wild birds testing positive for avian influenza virus in the fall. (Migrating birds are attracted to farm fields to feed on their route south, and may shed avian influenza virus in the fields while visiting.) Fall harvest work may mean that either you or your tractor could track the avian influenza virus back to your barns.

So be vigilant, and review your biosecurity plans! **CF**



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Hill Watch

Federal Provincial Territorial Ministers' Meeting

During its annual summer meeting this year in Calgary, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) held a roundtable with Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers to facilitate discussion around pressing and upcoming agricultural issues, and most importantly, the next Agricultural Policy Framework. Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) Board member and representative to the CFA, David Hyink, gave a presentation to Ministers on Social License for the second year in a row. During the meeting, British Columbia Agriculture Minister, Norm Letnick, gave CFC recognition for the work we are doing on this subject. The CFA/FPT Roundtable gives farmer leaders an opportunity for building relationships with their respective government representatives, while ensuring their voices are heard.

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Following the CFA meeting, FPT Ministers met to jointly determine the direction and next steps for planning the next Agricultural Policy Framework, set to launch in April 2018. Ministers discussed increasing market access and development, advancing investments in science, innovation and research, the need for a strong science-based regulatory framework, enhancing public trust, the continued importance of Business Risk Management programs—including supply management—and a renewed emphasis on environmental sustainability and climate change. The joint statement after the meeting also reaffirmed Ministers' commitment to preserving the integrity of supply management.


WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE FALL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

MPs and Senators were hard at work back in their ridings this summer, attending community barbecues, making funding announcements and meeting with constituents. At the same time, Ministers and the PM fanned out across the country, and the world, to announce government policies, new funding, and to build relationships. The House of Commons resumed on September 19 and is expected to sit until June 2017.

The fall session will see the government working towards its goals of creating jobs, growing the middle class, and investing in research and innovation, while Ministers will continue to tackle the items in their mandate letters.

Hot topics on the Hill this fall will include: electoral reform, the Conservative Party leadership race, upcoming by-elections in Calgary Heritage, Calgary Midnapore, Medicine Hat–Cardston–Warner (October 24), Ottawa–Vanier and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Inquiry. Chicken Farmers of Canada will continue to press the various departments involved in resolving the issue of spent fowl, and will work with MPs in bringing forth further awareness of the fraud that is occurring.

PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION TO THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chicken Farmers of Canada made a pre-budget submission to the House Standing Committee on Finance in August, and will appear as witnesses at a committee meeting at the end of October. The Committee is seeking recommendations from Canadians on what federal measures would help Canadians and Canadian businesses maximize their contributions to the country's economic growth, and what measures would ensure that urban, rural, and remote communities are able help their residents and businesses grow. Chicken Farmers of Canada recommended the mandatory certification for imports classified as spent fowl, the exclusion of chicken from the duties relief and drawback programs, and the reinstatement of the sauce and cooking requirements of Specially-Defined Mixtures (SDMs) as contained in Canada's WTO commitments into the Customs Tariff definition. These three recommendations come at no cost to government and by removing duplication in programs, will actually create cost savings for government. As well, they will permit the Canadian chicken sector to increase its contribution to GDP, employ more Canadians, and pay more taxes. 





CPRC UPDATE

Poultry Research Funding Approved for 2016 Projects

Each year the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC) issues a call for proposals on priority research topics for the Canadian poultry industry.

The topics solicited for the 2016 project proposals included three categories: 1) food safety, 2) poultry health and welfare, and 3) productivity and sustainability. These categories were chosen to align with the *National Research Strategy for Canada's Poultry Sector* priorities.

Chicken Farmers of Canada's (CFC) research priorities, as approved by the CFC Board of Directors, were included in 2016 call for proposals. These included chick quality, antibiotic alternatives, pathogen reduction on-farm, and new vaccines, among other topics.

A total of 29 proposals were received and after review by the CPRC Board, 14 were sent for review by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). Based on reviews from the SAC and balancing priorities, the CPRC Board selected 8 projects to fund.


They are:

- **M. Boulianne, U. of Montreal** – Broiler breeder national survey on foodborne pathogen prevalence, antimicrobial resistance, and antimicrobial use.
- **J. Alcantara, U. of Calgary** – An inexpensive plant-derived multicomponent vaccine for poultry coccidiosis and necrotic enteritis.
- **S. Sharif, U. of Guelph** – Is it possible to control avian influenza virus transmission?
- **D. Inglis, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada** – Alternatives to antibiotics: a novel synbiotic technology to mitigate enteric inflammatory disease.
- **D. Korver, U. of Alberta** – Effect of barn sanitation on performance, microbiological & processing traits of commercial broilers.
- **J. C. Rodriguez-Lecompte, U. of PEI** – Nutritional regulation of genes associated with avian B cell receptors involved in innate and adaptive immunity.

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- **E. Kiarie, U. of Guelph** – Investigating optimal feed structure for promoting pullet gut and skeletal development for enhanced layers productivity.
- **M. Zuidhof, U. of Alberta** – Lifetime productivity of precision- and conventionally-fed broiler breeders.

In addition, 2016 marks the third year that Chicken Farmers of Canada has funded a separate project that focusses specifically on a high priority issue for the broiler industry. The topic chosen for this year's project was to investigate effective management techniques for antibiotic-reduced flocks in order to identify the best management practices that are needed to grow chicken in an antibiotic-reduced environment.

A total of 4 proposals were received for this and the selected project is being led by Martine Boulianne at the University of Montreal. The objective of Boulianne's project is to measure the variation of oocysts and *Clostridium perfringens* (CP) counts over time in antibiotic-reduced flocks and see how they correlate during the life of the flock with fecal and litter moisture, barn daily relative humidity and temperature, and flock growth performance. Necrotic enteritis caused by CP is the number one problem for antibiotic-free and antibiotic-reduced production and the project aims to identify best management practices for the control of CP. 



Trade Update – CETA and the TPP

Growing global anti-trade sentiment has been unsettling the two significant agreements currently on Canada's trade agenda. The fates of both the as-yet-unratified Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union (EU) with its 28 member countries, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that would link Canada to 11 other signatory countries hang in limbo as the European and U.S. political landscapes struggle to address the mounting public skepticism over the desirability of free trade agreements.

THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC TRADE AGREEMENT (CETA)

The CETA negotiations concluded in 2014 and hopes remain that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will be heading over to Brussels at the end of October this year to formally kick start its ratification process on both sides of the Atlantic. However, the European Commission's decision in July to treat the agreement as "mixed" may have scuttled this timeline.

In July, EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström stated that due to vocal criticism from some European capitals, especially EU heavyweights Berlin and Paris, the deal would now require the approval of the more than 30 national and regional parliaments across the European bloc. Canada's International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland stated that CETA's new "mixed" designation means that "Europeans at the national level will have a democratic say on this agreement, just as CETA will be debated in our own Parliament".

While this approval would form the third and final step required for the deal's complete ratification, the first two steps – the approval of both the EU Parliament and the European Council – would allow CETA to enter into force provisionally, applying to issues that do not fall under the purview of national governments. So the phasing out of tariffs on commodities like seafood and the granting of new market access for products such as European cheese would come into effect before the deal is finally approved.

Some legal arguments suggest that CETA will proceed so long as no country explicitly votes against it, while others suggest that an individual country may only have the power to hold up, or reject outright, specific parts of the deal, but not the entire package.

THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP)

Although already signed, the process to move the TPP towards ratification is equally bogged down. For it to come into effect, all 12 TPP signatory countries must have ratified the deal within their governments by the February 4, 2018 deadline. Failing that, the deal could still come into effect by April 5, 2018 so long as it has been ratified by at least six of the signatory countries that together make up more than 85 per cent of the total group's GDP.

This means that both Japan and the United States, which together account for nearly 80 per cent of the total group's GDP, must ratify the agreement for it to become operational at all. Given that the greatest hold up is coming from the U.S., where both major presidential candidates have denounced the deal and speculation persists about whether or not the TPP will be brought up for a vote during the post-election lame-duck session, it is no surprise that other TPP members, such as Canada, are biding their time in moving forward the domestic legislation required to ratify the agreement. **QF**



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