

# PROTECTING BIRD HEALTH AND WELFARE

This is at the heart of what we do. The first and foremost concern of a chicken farmer is ensuring the birds in their care are healthy and comfortable.

## 2009

The Animal Care Program was finalized and audits began across the country. The program is based on the Code of Practice developed by the National Farm Animal Care Council.

## 2012

The Canadian poultry industry developed an industry-wide strategy to address responsible antibiotic use in the poultry sector. Antibiotics are an important tool for protecting the health and welfare of our birds and responsible use is critical.

## 2014

The chicken industry eliminated the preventive use of Category I antibiotics - those most important to human medicine.

## 10 PROVINCES

have made, or have approved making, the Animal Care Program mandatory. Thanks to our system of supply management, mandatory means just that – farmers must be certified on the program to sell chicken in Canada and there are enforcement measures in place to ensure compliance.



### THIRD PARTY AUDITS



Third party audits of the Animal Care Program are now conducted annually to offer credibility and ensure consistency across the country.



# 22

The number of animal welfare research projects that the Canadian chicken industry has funded to-date through CPRC.



# 100%

of chicken farmers are certified on the Animal Care Program.

The Canadian poultry industry has invested over \$3.5 million through the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC). Nearly half of this research funding has been directed towards bird health and antibiotic alternative research.

## There are 5 elements to the industry-wide antimicrobial use strategy

- 1 Defining antimicrobial use and analyzing antimicrobial resistance trends
- 2 Reviewing best management practices and reducing antimicrobial 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 resistance and use

- ▶ Chicken farmers have worked collaboratively with the federal government since **2012** on the Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) for surveillance at the farm level for both antibiotic resistance and use.
- ▶ The majority of antimicrobials used in poultry production are not used at all in human medicine<sup>1</sup>.

1. A. Agunos, D. Léger, S. Gow, C. Carson, A. Deckert, R. Irwin and R. Reid-Smith, "Antimicrobial use monitoring in Canadian broiler flocks- Results from the CIPARS farm surveillance program (2014 update)," in Proceedings of the sixty-fifth western poultry disease conference, Vancouver, 2016.