



THE CHICKEN FARMER

Volume 21, Issue 4 | AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2019



Canada-Mercosur Free Trade Negotiations

Since the last edition of *The Chicken Farmer*, two more rounds of the trade negotiations between Canada and Mercosur, the South American customs union composed of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, have taken place. Round 6 took place June 17 to 26 in Montevideo, Uruguay, and Round 7 which took place in Ottawa, began on July 29 and concluded on August 2.

Since Round 5, negotiators had been struggling to reach an agreement on modalities, which would set the desired level of ambition. Although this goal was finally reached during Round 7, the difficulties reaching this agreement delayed progress. Both parties had sought to conclude the talks by the end of 2019;

however, the struggle to agree on modalities has pushed this goal out of reach. Additionally, upcoming elections in Canada, Argentina, and Uruguay have complicated the scheduling of the next round, Round 8, which will be held in Brazil. So far, no dates have been set for this next round.



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The Canadian chicken sector is keeping a close eye on these talks as Mercosur includes the chicken-exporting powerhouse of Brazil, which controls 33% of the global market, and up-and-coming Argentina, which is aggressively looking to increase its broiler meat exports 11% from 187 million kilograms in 2018 to 210 million kilograms in 2019. Brazil is currently Canada's second largest source of chicken imports after the United States, with 11.1 million kilograms of imports entering market in 2018.

Chicken Farmers of Canada's executive committee and staff remain in close communication with the Government of Canada's negotiating team, ensuring that they are equipped with up-to-date information on the chicken sector's concerns.

CANADA-UNITED STATES-MEXICO AGREEMENT (CUSMA)

After the U.S. repealed its Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico, the CUSMA ratification process was put into motion in all three countries. On June 19, Mexico notified that its ratification process was complete. The Canadian government has introduced Bill C-100, the bill to implement CUSMA, and although it is unclear when it plans on ratifying the agreement, it is certain that it wishes to move in tandem with the U.S. Consequently, the implementation of the new North American trade agreement currently depends primarily on the United States' ratification process, and on how it fits with Canada's federal election timeline constraints.

The U.S. Congress had not yet tabled its implementation bill prior to taking its summer recess on July 29, so nothing will take place with the agreement until the U.S. lawmakers return on September 6. However, this timing is sure to conflict with Canada's federal election process, which requires that that Parliament be dissolved, at the latest, on September 16 – the day it will return from its own recess. All of this points to a strong likelihood that Canada will not be able to finalize its ratification process until after the election on October 21.

The agreement will only come into force on the first day of the third month following its ratification by the three countries. **CF**



National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council Elects New Chair and Expands Scope of Work




On July 2nd the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare (NFAHWC) Council announced the appointment of René Roy as their new industry co-chair. René has been a Director on the Council for 2 years and brings a wealth of education and experience to his new role on the Council. René will join Dr. Hélène Trépanier, the NFAHW Council Government Co-Chair, in leading the Council and supporting the advancement of animal health and welfare in Canada.

René has a PhD in agricultural economics from McGill University, and is a pork producer from farrow to finish, a dairy farmer and a maple syrup producer. In addition, he is 2nd vice-chair of the Canadian Pork Council.

René was elected into this new position following the resignation of Robert McNabb, who held the role of industry co-chair on the Council since its inception in 2010. Rob's vision helped to establish a Council that works in partnership with government and industry animal health and welfare stakeholders to address shared issues. His leadership also initiated the evolution of the Council from the role of advisor, to a role with enhanced leadership and coordination.

As an example of this enhanced role, Council will be taking over leadership of the **Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System (CAHSS)**, previously coordinated by the **Canadian Food Inspection Agency**. Council has also taken the lead on reporting on Canada's animal health progress as it pertains to the Plant and Animal Health Strategy, and is supporting the initiative of Animal Health Canada. To support and lead all of this work, Council has hired a full time Executive Director, Dr. Megan Bergman.

The NFAHW Council is the only national organization that brings together industry, federal, provincial and territorial partners to provide collaborative guidance on a cohesive, functional and responsive farmed animal health and welfare system in Canada. The Council engages expertise to address important topics such as animal welfare, emerging diseases, animal health surveillance, antimicrobial use and resistance, and the emerging theme of "one welfare." Marco Volpé from New Brunswick is CFC's Director on the Council. 

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CPRC Update

Since 2013, the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC) has been administering the poultry science cluster, part of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Growing Forward 2 program, and now through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Two of these projects looked at understanding and controlling necrotic enteritis (NE) in broiler chickens.

IN SEARCH OF A NECROTIC ENTERITIS VACCINE

The global poultry industry takes an estimated \$6 billion hit every year from necrotic enteritis. Intestinal damage caused by this condition means birds don’t grow well, and current prevention and treatment approaches centre around antibiotics, which are under increasing criticism when used in food animals.

“There is a real need globally for an effective necrotic enteritis vaccine,” says John Prescott, professor emeritus with the University of Guelph’s Department of Pathobiology who spent many years working on a vaccine. “We want to prevent necrotic enteritis with ways other than antibiotics and that’s where vaccines come in.”

Canadian researchers have been focused on the pathogen that causes necrotic enteritis (NE) – *Clostridium perfringens* – a highly-specialized bacterium that adapts to the chicken intestine. They are searching for options to use the bacteria to develop an effective vaccine to protect birds. Prescott and Joshua Gong, a senior research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, have worked together to understand how *C. perfringens* develops in hopes of finding effective protection options. They worked on different parts of the pathogen, and ultimately collaborated on the most promising prospect for an effective NE vaccine for poultry producers. A commercial vaccine could be expected available in as little as three years.

GENE MANIPULATION FALLS SHORT

Prescott and his team set out to develop a new oral live bacterial vaccine for NE. He looked for strains of *C. perfringens* that they could weaken by knocking out key genes. By deleting the selected genes, they hoped to manipulate the pathogen to deliver the desired balance of expressing the antigens that birds would need to develop immunity to the bacterium, without causing any NE damage. In vaccinology terms, a live attenuated vaccine. The advantage of this approach would be that the vaccine would be inexpensive to produce, easily delivered in water, safe, and be effective because it would grow where immunity was needed.



But what they learned under lab conditions was that they could produce some immunity to NE in chickens using the modified live organism as a vaccine, but it wasn't going to be an industry solution. "We would have loved to have discovered a strain of the NE-causing bacteria that was effective in preventing NE...but we didn't," says Prescott.

"We worked really hard to target specific genes in the bacterium that are important for making the organism grow in the bird's intestine that could cause immunity and not disease. Disappointingly we didn't produce any strains of *C. perfringens* that could produce any significant immune protection for birds against NE without causing any damage."

PILI PROVIDE A PROMISING APPROACH

Around the same time, Joshua Gong and his associate Dion Lepp were looking at the NE vaccine potential of a hair-like appendage (pilus) on the surface of *C. perfringens* at AAFC's Guelph Research and Development Centre. "John and I had worked together to understand how *C. perfringens* developed NE, and then we worked on different parts of the bacterium in the search for an NE vaccine," says Gong.

"In my lab, we were looking at pili – which often attach to the gut of the host to initiate disease – as a route to developing an NE vaccine," says Gong. This approach has yielded exciting results and a promising prospect for a commercial NE vaccine for Canadian poultry producers.


"We discovered two pilus (Latin for hair) proteins on the pathogen that produced the best antibody response in a vaccine to protect birds against NE," says Gong, who stresses that Prescott contributed significantly to the development of the pilus vaccine. "We are now patenting these two pilus



proteins that hold the best prospect for an effective NE vaccine."

Gong and Lepp are in discussions with vaccine companies to collaborate on developing this vaccine to the next step towards commercialization,

including exploring the route of administration that is the most feasible. "I would expect we are about three years away from a commercially available vaccine for poultry producers that will offer effective protection against necrotic enteritis," says Gong. He's hopeful Canada could be the first market, but that will depend on the company that takes the product to commercialization.

This research was part of the Poultry Science Cluster 2 which was supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as part of Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Prescott's work was also supported by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Gong's research was also funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. 

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Hill Watch

Election Day is October 21st



This fall, it is important for farmers across the country to get engaged in the election and understand the issues, candidates, and party platforms. Farmers like you need to work hard to elect parties and candidates that voice their support for the supply management system and ensure the vitality of agriculture across the country.

It is sure to be a busy summer, with candidates in your area knocking on doors, attending local events, and participating in debates. Why not take advantage of a community BBQ to talk to your local candidates about the benefits of supply management? For those of you in urban areas, remind candidates that Canadian supply-managed farmers put local, fresh, nutritious food on their voters' plates every week.

Chicken Farmers of Canada invites you to visit our website for key messages to use when talking to candidates and fellow voters. For example, the Canadian chicken sector's

2,803 chicken farmers and 191 processors generate employment and help sustain agricultural communities in every province.

The sector:

- » sustains 87,200 jobs
- » contributes \$6.8 billion to Canada's Gross Domestic Product
- » pays \$2.2 billion in taxes
- » purchases 2.6 million tons of feed, supporting other farmers in turn

GET INVOLVED!

Farmers: check your mailbox for more details on how you can get involved in your riding!



- » Ask questions to candidates on social media, at debates, and in the community
- » Talk to neighbours and friends about what this election means to Canadian chicken farmers and supply management
- » Make sure candidates and voters alike understand the economic impact the chicken sector has on your community and province
- » Consult the election section at chickenfarmers.ca for up-to-date talking points and templates
- » Reach out to your provincial board office for materials and information
- » Invite candidates to visit your farm

Don't:

- » Be passive or negative
- » Outline detailed concerns candidates may not be able to address
- » Forget to vote!

All of these actions are important in getting your voice heard this election!

ELECTIONS CANADA

Visit elections.ca to track down information on voting in your area, ensure you are registered to vote, and to learn more about candidates in your riding.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LOBBYING OF CANADA

If you are an elected member of your provincial or national board, you may be subject to limitations on political activities during the writ period. Please visit the Lobbying Commissioner's **website** for more information.

POLITICAL PARTY CONTACT INFORMATION

Liberal Party of Canada

Leader: Justin Trudeau
www.liberal.ca
920-350 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6M8
1-888-542-3725

Conservative Party of Canada

Leader: Andrew Scheer
<http://www.conservative.ca>
1204-130 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5G4
1-866-808-8407

New Democratic Party

Leader: Jagmeet Singh
<https://www.ndp.ca/>
300-279 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5J9
1-866-525-2555


Green Party

Leader: Elizabeth May
www.greenparty.ca
PO Box 997, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5R1
1-866-868-3447

Bloc Québécois

Leader: Yves-François Blanchet
<http://www.blocquebecois.org/>
3750, boul. Crémazie
bureau 502
Montréal (Québec)
H2A 1B6
1-514-526-3000

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Chicken Farmers of Canada's Public Affairs team is here to help get you engaged! You can reach us at **publicaffairs@chicken.ca** if you have any questions or require more information on how you can get involved in your riding. 





Canadian Federation of Agriculture Summer Meeting

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) annual summer meeting was held in Quebec City in mid-July this year, bringing together members, partners, and farm leaders to discuss important issues facing Canadian farmers.

The three-day meeting addressed a wide range of topics including updates on committee activity, the Food Policy for Canada, changes to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Value-Chain Roundtables, and CFA policy resolutions. CFA also brought forward its recommendations to government for the 2020 federal budget. Members heard presentations from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Food Day Canada 2019 campaign, Public Trust Steering Committee, and of importance, a trade update from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Assistant Deputy Minister Frédéric Seppey.

In April, CFA launched its Producing Prosperity in Canada campaign to engage candidates and Canadians alike in highlighting agriculture throughout the 2019 federal election. The campaign focuses on three pillars outlining the benefits of the Canadian agri-food sector:


- » Economic Growth - *Canada's Agri-Food industry drives our national economy*
 - Increased well-paying jobs
 - Increased GDP and tax revenue
 - Rural economic development
- » Food Security - *Canada is a world leader in diversity of food grown and produced*
 - Canadian food standards
 - Growing our domestic food production
 - Earth's population to reach 10 billion by 2050
- » Environmental Stewardship - *Canadian agriculture protects our shared environment*
 - Increased land stewardship
 - Carbon capture
 - No-till farming

The Producing Prosperity campaign aims to educate and enlighten candidates and encourages all producers to get involved. For more information on the Producing Prosperity campaign please visit: <https://producingprosperitycanada.ca/>. CFA will also be hosting an agriculture leaders' debate on September 24th.

FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, TERRITORIAL MINISTERS' MEETING

Following their summer meeting, the CFA held a roundtable with Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) agriculture Ministers to discuss emerging topics of importance in agriculture. The roundtable featured opening remarks from Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, as well as the host-Minister of Agriculture, André Lamontagne. The key discussion topic was the Producing Prosperity campaign and how the FPT governments can alleviate stresses from the recent trade disputes that have been affecting farmers.

FPT Ministers then met in-camera for the remainder of the week to reiterate their commitment to help Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector seize new opportunities and tackle important challenges to ensure businesses prosper and create economic growth. Of importance, Ministers reconfirmed their support for supply management, and the importance of providing compensation to supply-managed sectors in a full and fair way. Federal government representatives indicated they are taking the appropriate steps to announce details as soon as possible, to ensure the dairy, poultry, and egg sectors are well positioned to thrive.


Ministers also addressed the growing shortage of labour in agriculture, improvements to business risk management programs, and the current trade challenges facing industry. The next annual meeting of FPT Ministers is in Guelph, Ontario, in July 2020. 

Dietitians' Conference Wrap-up



Staffers proudly represented CFC in a burst of intense interaction with health professionals at the Dietitians of Canada's annual conference in June. This year's theme for the event was "Capitalize on our connections," and this is precisely what our small but mighty team did.

Elyse Ferland and Shaun Malley, working alongside dietitian H el ene Charlebois, fielded a constant stream of questions from well more than 200 participants. The vast majority were inquiries about how to obtain nutritional information about chicken for their clients and patients; we were ready with our fourteen different types of fact sheets (in English and French) at our disposal, neatly laid out for all to pick and choose. Plenty of attendees asked where they could see these sheets online or order them for their practices. Many of them told us that while they were trying to reduce their use of paper, plenty of their patients still prefer a handy hardcopy of the data they need.

It may not have been a long engagement, but it was fruitful. Our team made many contacts within the community of professionals, while also reinforcing preexisting ones. We can proudly report that more than one dietitian told us that chicken is the animal protein of choice they recommend to their patients. 

Medicator Testing

Water medicators must be tested before each use with medication. This is important to ensure you are administering the right dose of medication to your birds.

1. Disconnect the outflow side of the medicator from the water line.
2. Fill a measuring cup with a specific amount of water.
3. Place a pail under the outflow of the medicator.
4. Place the medicator intake tube in the measuring cup.
5. Turn on the water supply through the medicator.
6. If the correct amounts are disappearing out of the measuring cup, then the medicator is working properly. If not, your medicator needs servicing (i.e. for medicators set at 1%, when 10 L has collected in the pail, at the outflow end, there should be 100 mL gone from the measuring cup).

For additional information, check out this how-to video at <https://bit.ly/2xAevSu>

