

The information was obtained from a survey of the clinical impressions of practicing veterinarians between May 1st, 2016 and July 31st, 2016 and laboratory data from the Animal Health Laboratory, with input from poultry specialists. It is the intent of this program to advance and protect the health of poultry in Ontario.



Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) Poultry Expert Network Quarterly Producer Report

Quarter 3, 2016 (May 01 2016-July 31 2016)

Highlights

- Reovirus cases in broilers
- Coccidiosis cases in broiler breeders
- Alternative housing issues in layers
- Necrotic enteritis in turkeys

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Poultry Veterinarian Survey Highlights

Broilers

- Increased numbers of **reovirus** associated lameness cases were reported for this quarter. Leg deformities, especially splayed legs, slipped tendons, and tendon infections in chickens 7-30 days of age were the main clinical signs in addition to higher numbers of birds unsuitable for loading at the end of the grow out. Increased culling was the main concern and was highly variable ranging from 2 to 12%. Flocks composed of nondomestic chicks were at higher risk. With financial support from the OAHN/Disease Surveillance Program, genotyping was conducted on the reovirus nucleic acid from positive broiler samples since Jan. 2016, and will continue for upcoming samples until the end of 2016. Genotyping is a tool that can be used to help further characterize what strains of reovirus are currently in the Ontario broiler population. Preliminary results have identified multiple groups of variant strains of reovirus.

PRODUCER TIP: Discuss culling with your veterinarian. The old adage, “cull early, cull often” applies here. Submission of lame birds to your vet will aid in the diagnosis of the underlying cause of the lameness, so you can better understand how to manage affected birds in the flock.

- **Coccidiosis** and necrotic enteritis were observed in flocks raised without antibiotics.
- A small increase in **spiking mortality cases** were reported in flocks where light restriction was not being used.
- **Bacterial lameness** with *E. coli* and *Enterococcus cecorum* involvement received multiple notations in the clinical impressions survey.
- 4 more cases of the **runting and stunting syndrome (RSS)** were reported in flocks up to 17 days of age. One of these cases was tested for astroviruses associated with US cases of RSS and was positive.
- Despite the extremely hot summer, there have been **minimal heat-related issues** with only one comment in the clinical impressions survey describing elevated DOAs.

Broiler-Breeders

- Health status of the Ontario broiler breeder flocks is stable.
- A small number of **coccidiosis** cases with *E. tenella* in chicks 14 days of age were noted.
- Some mortality around peak lay, related to peritonitis associated with *E. coli* was observed.
- A few cases of **lameness of bacterial origin** were reported including bacterial



Your OAHN Poultry Network Team:

Practitioners

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tendon infections and pododermatitis. **Pododermatitis** affects both the males and females but tends to be seen in males early in production and in females later in production.

- Cases of White Chick Syndrome are back to the normal very low level.
- Male aggression has been seen in a few flocks, which can be mitigated by controlling the male ratio and weights and putting fewer males into barns.

Layers

- No dramatic change in the health status of laying hens in Ontario.
- Increased numbers of layers are being raised in alternative housing, and a transient increase in aggression, cannibalism, oviductal infections, and parasitic and bacterial enteritis have been noted. Producers should speak with their veterinarian about preventive measures.
- Very localized *E. coli* infections were identified in organic flocks and are challenging to manage as treatment and control options are limited.

Turkeys

- Health status of the Ontario turkey flocks is stable.
- A small number of **necrotic enteritis** (NE) cases secondary to coccidiosis in 6-8 week old birds, and early and late bacterial infections associated with *E. coli* infections were reported by individual practitioners.

Provincial Condemnation Data

- The most common reasons for condemnation in chickens were: dead on arrival, cellulitis, ascites, cyanosis, hepatitis, contamination, emaciation, deep pectoral myopathy, and inadequate bleeding.

We thank the following poultry veterinarians who completed the veterinary survey:

Dr. Elizabeth Black, Dr. Peter Gazdzinski, Dr. Shahbaz Ul Haq, Dr. Mike Joyce, Dr. Kathleen Long, Dr. Rachel Ouckama, Dr. Mike Petrik, Dr. Cynthia Philippe, Dr. Joanne Rafuse, Dr. Chanelle Taylor, Dr. Lloyd Weber, and Dr. Alex Weisz.

Updates

- The Best Management Practice for Poultry Medicated Feed Withdrawal document has been updated. Practices outlined in this document are intended to help the producers effectively meet medicated feed withdrawal requirements.
- Chicken Farmers of Ontario launched its Humane Euthanasia Training Program for CFO Farmer-Members. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.ontariochicken.ca/Farmer-Member-Resources/Operational-Production-Updates-for-Farmer-Members/Humane-Euthanasia-Training-Program-for-CFO-Far-1.aspx>
- The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Hatching Eggs, Breeders, Chickens and Turkeys was released in 2016. More information can be obtained at: <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/chickens-turkeys-and-breeders>
- The Code of Practice for Layers is under revision, and the updated version is expected to be released in 2016. More information can be obtained at: <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/poultry-layers>
- The small flock disease surveillance project is ongoing, with subsidized testing for a set of postmortem testing on non-quota flocks. More information can be obtained at: http://www.guelphlabservices.com/AHL/Poultry_Flock_Disease.aspx
- Poultry Health Research Network lectures can be accessed on the PHRN website or on the PHRN YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PoultryHRN>



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Important Poultry Numbers

OMAFRA AICC hotline		1-877-424-1300	
Animal Health Lab		519-824-4120 x 54530	ahinfo@uoguelph.ca
Chicken Farmers of Ontario Hotline		1-877-SOS-BYRD	
Feather Board Command Centre		289-776-5984	
CFIA emergency line	Reportable diseases only	1-877-814-2342	

