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Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) Poultry Expert Network
Highlights of teleconference and quarterly data summary for February 1st to April 30th, 2015

This information is a professional communication for poultry producers. The information was obtained from a survey of the clinical impressions of practicing veterinarians in Ontario and laboratory data from the Animal Health Laboratory, with interpretation from poultry specialists. It is the intent of this program to advance and protect the health of poultry in Ontario.

TOP DISEASES / ISSUES OF CONCERN BY SECTOR

BROILERS

- Early systemic bacterial infection (<14 days old)
- Late systemic bacterial infection (>14 days old)
- Lameness (bacterial agent)
- Infectious Bronchitis Virus (IBV)
- Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD)

BROILER-BREEDERS: Most of the issues this quarter were listed as stable.

- Infectious Bronchitis Virus: Two cases of IBV 4/91 infection resulting in hatchability issues were reported by the practitioners.
- Lameness: Bacterial infections continue to be the most common cause of lameness.

LAYERS: All issues trended toward “stable”, and most were “rarely” or “never” seen.

- One case of ILT in a flock was identified.

TURKEYS: All issues with turkeys trended toward “stable” and were seen “rarely” or “never”.

RURAL/BACKYARD/NON-QUOTA FLOCKS: A mixed assortment of species and cases were reported this quarter, including ovarian duct carcinoma, intestinal parasitism, mites, lice, Marek’s disease, gizzard impaction, trauma, vent trauma and pododermatitis. Erysipelas was diagnosed in one gamebird flock.

NEW/POSSIBLE THREATS

The province is beginning the return to a state of “normalcy” as it has been several weeks since the last Avian Influenza (AI) case was detected in Ontario. The panel discussed the possible threat of new cases of avian influenza in the fall. Producers should make biosecurity plans for the fall with their veterinarians and industry groups.

PRACTICAL BIOSECURITY INFORMATION

Dr. Csaba Varga, Lead Veterinarian, Poultry Disease Prevention, OMAFRA



Poultry farmers can help to prevent poultry infectious diseases such as Avian Influenza and ILT from infecting their flocks and avoid spreading them within and among farms by following strict biosecurity practices all year round.

Implementing any or all of these suggestions will reduce the risk of disease entry and spread.

- Restrict entry to essential personnel and record entry.
- Poultry farmers and visitors to the farms should change into dedicated/disposable, clean boots and coveralls upon entering the barn.
- Minimize visits to other poultry production sites, and if you do ensure you shower before entering your barn.
- Wash hands and use hand sanitizer before and after handling the birds.
- Avoid any commingling of birds or contact with outside birds.
- Minimize entry of vehicles, equipment, supplies, etc. and take appropriate precautions such as cleaning and disinfection.
- Ensure adequate control of wild birds, rodents, and insects.
- Regularly monitor flock health and immediately report any suspicion of disease to your veterinarian.
- Review your biosecurity plan and flock health program with your veterinarian on a regular basis.

Additional information on biosecurity is available at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/biosecurity/standards-and-principles/avian-biosecurity/eng/1344748344710/1344748451521>

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/poultry/facts/05-077.htm>

Important poultry contact information:

OMAFRA hotline	1-877-424-1300
Chicken Farmers of Ontario Hotline	1-877-SOS-BYRD
Feather Board Command Centre	289-776-5984
CFIA emergency line	1-877-814-2342