

The information was obtained by surveying practicing veterinarians on clinical impressions of major diseases that they have seen at their practice between February 01, 2016 and April 30, 2016. It is the intent of this Poultry Expert Network to advance and protect the health of poultry in Ontario.



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

Quarter 2, 2016 (Feb 01 2016-Apr 30 2016)

Highlights

- Avian pathogenic *E. coli* project is ongoing
- Early systemic bacterial infections in broilers
- Runting and stunting syndrome in broilers
- IBV infections and systemic mycosis in broiler breeders
- Alternative housing issues in layers
- Influenza H1N1 in turkeys
- ILT in small flocks

• **Contact Us**

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Poultry Veterinarian Survey Highlights

Broilers

- A doubling of the numbers of **early systemic bacterial infections** has been noted with mostly *E. coli* involvement was noted in the lab submissions in contrast with the practitioner survey which indicates that there is no change in the frequency. This increase in pathology submissions to the lab may be linked to increased submissions for the APEC genotyping project
 - A small increase in bacterial (*E. cecorum*, *Staph aureus*, *E. coli*) and viral (Reovirus) lameness cases were noted.
 - **Newly emerging issue**: 5 regionally clustered cases of **runting and stunting syndrome** have been reported in young flocks under 11 days of age, since February with repetition in some subsequent flocks. Clinical signs include the inability of the affected flocks to meet their 7-day weights and these flocks never do catch up, so are underweight and uneven in size even at the end of the growout.

Broiler-Breeders

- Health status of the Ontario broiler breeder flocks is relatively stable.
- Individual practitioners reported an increase in **early mortality** and **septicemia** and other causes of mortality in young flocks as well as **in-lay septicemia**.
 - Continue to see **IBV infections** with no one predominant strain of IBV. Strains 4/91, Ca_1737-04, and Mass were associated with a drop in egg production; 4/91 and Mass strains were associated with drop in hatchability, with the 4/91 infection resulting in a severe and sustained drop and the California strain, Ca_1737-04 was associated with a sudden increase in mortality following the spiking of flocks.
 - Cases of white chick syndrome were not reported this quarter.
 - An atypical presentation of **systemic mycosis** associated with *Aspergillus oryzae* was reported in 2 separate young broiler breeder flocks in Feb and March. Two similar cases were reported in Q1 involving flocks of young broiler breeders and layer breeders.

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Layers

- No dramatic change in the health status of laying hens in Ontario.
- Increased number of layers are being raised in alternative housing, and a transient increase in disease issues including osteoporosis due to uneven feed consumption; aggression, cannibalism, salpingitis, parasitic and bacterial enteritis are expected as producers gain experience in managing birds in these systems

Turkeys

- Slight increase in ORT and necrotic enteritis (NE) cases reported by individual practitioners in the last quarter.
- Pandemic H1N1 has been detected in 2 turkey farms. Drop in egg production, no other clinical signs or mortality have been noted.

Rural/Backyard/Non-Quota Flocks

- 2 cases of ILT (1- field strain, 1-vaccine strain) were reported. Both cases also had respiratory disease complex- with mycoplasmal, MG (both), MS (1 of 2), viral (IBV 1 of 2), and secondary bacterial infections.
- Bacterial peritonitis and ovarian/oviductal disease including salpingitis, impacted oviduct, oviductal cysts, and ovarian and oviductal neoplasia were the most common conditions.

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.



Your OAHN Poultry Network Team:

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Updates

- Small flock disease surveillance project is underway, 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. New lectures will begin again in the fall following the summer hiatus. <https://www.youtube.com/user/PoultryHRN>
- The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) have signed an agreement allowing for the exchange of information related to chicken disease incidents. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.ontariochicken.ca/News-Events/Whats-New/CFO-and-OMAFRA-improve-poultry-disease-management.aspx>

Important Poultry Numbers

OMAFRA AICC hotline		1-877-424-1300	
Animal Health Lab		519-824-4120 x 54530	ahlinfo@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	

