

Ministry of **Agriculture**



NFAHWC Forum 2018

Overview of Industry's Current and Potential Role in Disease Response – A BC perspective

Lessons Learned during Avian Influenza Outbreak 2014/2015
Working Cooperatively with smaller less organized stakeholders,
Lessons from Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease 2018
Japanese Beetle 2018

Jane Pritchard

Chief Veterinarian for BC, Director of the Animal Health Centre

Executive Director Plant and Animal Health Branch.

1

Ministry of **Agriculture**



Animal Health Centre Abbotsford, BC



2006 deck on AI preparedness

But this will require everyone's collective effort

- Everyone has a responsibility to ensure we are prepared.
- Our roles are intertwined – which is why we need to move forward collectively.



3

BC 2014-15 HPAI H5N2

- Dec 1 – 2 IPs
- Dec 2 – 4 IPs
- Dec 5 – first depopulation starts
- Dec 6 – 5 IPs
- Dec 10 – 8 IPs
- Dec 11 – 9 IPs – 5 depopulated
- Dec 14 – 10 IPs
- Dec 17 – 11 IPs
- Dec 19, Feb 2 non-commercial IPs
- March 9 2015 zones removed



4

2014 - 2015

- first hour individual farms were at a stand still
- 24 hr
 - JEOC was 'stood up'
 - industry standstill and quarantine
 - Poultry veterinarians getting supplies to test before transport
 - Industry activated their Poultry Emergency Operations Centre, and put a lot of voluntary controls in place



5



0

6

The BC Poultry Industry Emergency Response Plan is modeled on the BC FADES Plan, using the Incident Command System (ICS). This included information flows using briefings and internal communications from **agency reps in the JEOC**.

Industry has had training in ICS from Justice Institute of BC.

Although the responsibilities of **Industry** were not clear in this response, they contributed to several JEOC functions:

- **Liaison Officer:** Direct connection with industry associations.
- **Information Officer:** Good communications between Industry EOC and the JEOC. Industry helped with internal information sharing. Their "**Chicken 101**" brochure helped JEOC staff with limited knowledge of the poultry sector. Industry assisted in informing the public, responding to media requests.
- **Site Coordinator:** Industry reps met with producers to help **explain the response activities**. For example, Allan Cross helped with individual IP and details, esp. related to permitting. Producers were often very busy and reluctant to answer their phones unless it was from an industry rep whom they knew.
- **Sampling:** Industry established **surveillance prior to the control zone**, presumptively sampling everything within 1 km, then 3 km, using **hired private veterinary practitioners**.
- **Quarantine:** Industry initiated a **self-quarantine protocol**.

7

Further industry contributions to response:

- **Advance Planning:** Providing useful pre-planning with JEOC.
- **Logistics:** Industry assists with equipment. Sampling kits,
- **Compensation:** CFIA's efforts to inform producers about compensation activity is complimented with Industry involvement. Industry contacts and explains the process and who to call for assistance on each IP. At pre-contract meetings for each IP, the farmer can ask for an industry representative to be present.
- **Permitting:** Industry staff engage at the permitting level. This provides easy and quick access to local knowledge and farming operations to assist with efficiently issuing permits for movements, some of which are time-sensitive. Difference between mailing address and farm location.

8

Industry involvement in the response; recommendations from 2014

- Because Industry must react to situations every day, they are able to move quickly in a disease outbreak. They are already on the ground and can provide the first on-site response, while CFIA has to bring in and orient staff. Industry has the personnel and connections with the producers to speed the response, under the guidance of CFIA. **It is important to integrate Industry into specific JEOC functions, and consult them on critical decisions.**
- Include Industry Personnel; Assign Roles – The Fraser Valley poultry industry participated directly with government responders in this event, and were able to accomplish many tasks on behalf of all agencies. **Industry involvement in specific roles within the response organization should be considered best practice, and industry should be included in training and practice sessions**

9

Rapid Response Committee

- Industry driven. Industry co-chair.
- Industry trains with CFIA and BC AGRI on biocontainment, destruction, and movement teams.
- Goal – first farm(s) depopulated within 24 hours with industry and provincial government leading.

Site mapping

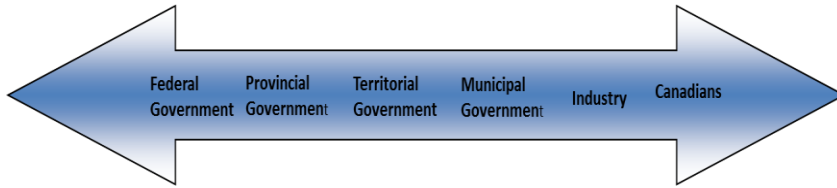
- Every premise is mapped to determine the zones for a depopulation event.
- Industry has 'go' containers that would be dropped at positive farms with guidance on the information they need to prepare and the supplies they need to contain the disease.

Why we need the industry

- No one else knows exactly how the birds flow through the system – permits
- No one else knows as much about what is practical and what each specific situation involves
- No one else can get boots on the ground as fast
- No one else is as motivated



Ministry of **Agriculture**

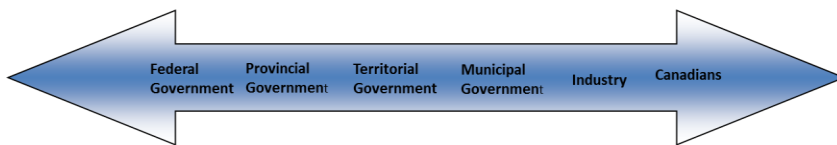


Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease – feral rabbits Vancouver Island, Delta, Richmond.

- Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, CFIA Veterinary Biologics, rabbit breeders, SPCA, municipal animal control and shelters, 4-H, veterinary practitioners, the public



Ministry of **Agriculture**



Japanese Beetle – invasive pest – downtown Vancouver

- CFIA, City of Vancouver, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, BC Nursery and Landscapers, Turf grass, Golf courses, the public





“Industry speaks producer fluently and have been able to accomplish things that other groups have been challenged by, like getting producers to pick up their phones or quickly posting information to websites.”

“These are simple things that can quickly become rocks in the river if not dealt with”

“I think if Industry was considered as a valuable tool the whole dynamic would flip over and we would be insanely efficient at emergencies”

Industry quotes.

15



16