

THE CHICKEN FARMER

Chicken Farmers of Canada Releases First Sustainability Report

The elements of sustainability have been the foundation of initiatives at Chicken Farmers of Canada for quite some time. While some may immediately think of “going green” when they hear the word sustainability, it has come to mean a lot more that, especially when talking about an entire industry being sustainable.

There are a host of sustainability factors for animal agriculture including animal health and well-being, environment, food safety, worker health and safety, economic viability, and food affordability. When Chicken Farmers of Canada started to explore the concept of sustainability for our industry, we found there were already a number of programs and policies in place which make our industry sustainable.

These are all now summarized and explained in a comprehensive Sustainability Report, which was released in February. The report is structured according to the values of the Canadian chicken industry, and describes the progress that has been made to-date in these areas.



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CHICKEN FARMERS OF CANADA'S SUSTAINABILITY VALUES

- 1) Protecting bird health and welfare
- 2) Producing safe chicken for Canadians
- 3) Preserving the health of the land and of our farms
- 4) Providing value to Canada, and affordable food to Canadians through supply management

This report is a way to celebrate our successes so far, and to be transparent with stakeholders and consumers about the practices in our industry. Linking to the

“Raised by a Canadian Farmer Brand”, it will serve as a useful tool for communicating about what the Canadian chicken industry stands for.

To complement the full report, summary infographics have also been produced which give a quick overview of the progress that the Canadian chicken industry has made in advancing each of the four sustainability values.

All infographics and the full report are now online at www.chickenfarmers.ca/what-we-do/sustainability/ 

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The New U.S. Administration, the TPP, and NAFTA

On Friday January 20th, Donald Trump was inaugurated into the White House as the 45th President of the United States of America. During his election campaign, Mr. Trump promised that he would withdraw the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement (TPP), and reopen the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which he characterized as the “worst trade deal maybe ever signed anywhere.”

On Monday January 23rd – his first day in the Oval Office, President Trump stayed true to his campaign promises and formally withdrew the U.S. from the TPP and advised that the renegotiations of NAFTA would begin “at an appropriate time.” At the time of writing, a month later, the consequences of these actions have yet to fully play out.

As currently negotiated, the TPP cannot enter into effect without its ratification by both the United States and Japan. Without the U.S.’s involvement, it remains uncertain what the remaining 11 TPP members¹ intend to do. While the United States appears to be exploring the possibility of a bilateral trade agreement with Japan, New Zealand and Australia have issued a joint statement outlining their intention to engage with the remaining TPP partners to determine what could be salvaged from the agreement.

There is even speculation about whether China could have a role in a post-U.S. TPP agreement, or whether remaining members might consider entering into the Chinese-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) talks, which already include Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

For its part, the government of Canada has been quiet about its future intentions regarding the TPP, although International Trade Minister François-Philippe Champagne joined other TPP signatories in Chile on March 14 and 15, discussed how to proceed without the U.S.


¹ Without the United States, TPP members include: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.



In terms of the U.S.’s stated intention to reopen NAFTA, it remains unclear whether this means updating the existing agreement, or scrapping the entire regional agreement and replacing it with two separate bilateral deals with Canada and Mexico. If the latter, Canada and Mexico will then need to ensure that their trade relationship remains steadfast – and this may even play a role how these two TPP signatories consider potential post-TPP next steps. Whatever the direction it decides to take, it will be important for the U.S. to recognize the Canadian market gains that it has made as a result of NAFTA.

Since its ratification in 1994, the overall value of U.S. exports to Canada has grown just under 180%. The U.S. chicken sector has particularly benefitted from the agreement’s implementation, with the volume of its exports of chicken into Canada growing by over 320% between 1993 and 2015.

While Canada’s commitment at the World Trade Organization provides all other WTO members with an annual chicken market access commitment of 39.9 Mkg (eviscerated weight) at the low tariff rate of 5.4 %, as a result of NAFTA, the U.S. has a secured market access commitment of 7.5 % of Canada’s previous year’s chicken production – completely tariff-free.

It is no surprise then that, despite growing demand worldwide, Canada remains the third most valuable second largest destination for U.S. chicken exports. Bearing these gains in mind will be important for both the Canadian and American trade negotiation teams if and when the U.S. administration decides to move forward on its intent to reopen NAFTA. 



Hill Watch

Forum for Young Canadians

For the second year in a row, Chicken Farmers of Canada partnered with Egg Farmers of Canada as Premiere Sponsors for the 2017 Forum for Young Canadians program, which took place in Ottawa throughout February and March.

Each year, Forum for Young Canadians welcomes hundreds of high school students from across Canada who are seeking a unique experience to learn first-hand about governance and the Parliamentary process. During their stay in Ottawa, students meet with Members of Parliament and Senators, learn about industry-government relations, and forge new relationships with other young motivated Canadians, among many other exciting activities.

This year, Chicken Farmers of Canada and Egg Farmers of Canada sponsored a 'selfie' stand at the MP receptions where participants could take memorable photos with their MPs. The stand was a huge hit and a great interactive way to engage with students and MPs at the receptions.

Chicken Farmers of Canada was proud to once again be a part of this great initiative for youth and we look forward to further educating Canada's students on Canadian agriculture.

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As an active member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Chicken Farmers of Canada attended the 2017 Annual General Meeting held in Ottawa in late February.

The delegation hosted presentations by Conservative Agriculture critic David Anderson, NDP trade critic Tracey Ramsey, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade, Pam Goldsmith-Jones, and a keynote speech from Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay.

In light of recent trade developments, the Agriculture Minister touched on his upcoming trips to Vietnam and India, and a potential renegotiation of NAFTA.



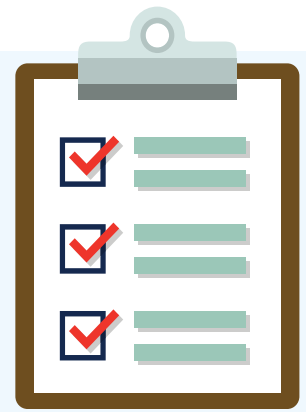
Representatives from Chicken Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada and Forum for Young Canadians pose in the selfie stand sponsored by CFC and EFC at the February 22nd MP Reception.

The Minister also spoke about the Next Agriculture Policy Framework, which is now being developed and will be finalized by federal and provincial agriculture ministers this July. All three parties highlighted their continued commitment to agriculture and supply management.

In early 2016, Finance Minister Bill Morneau created an Advisory Council on Economic Growth to come up with ideas that will better stimulate the Canadian economy, and maximize growth. Chair of the Advisory Council, Dominic Barton, spoke at the CFA AGM to present highlights from the council's most recent report, focusing on the immense potential of agriculture and agri-food to help create the conditions for strong and sustained long-term growth.

In addition to the packed agenda, CFA members passed 40 resolutions that will guide its advocacy efforts in the coming year. This year's resolutions covered topics like program funding, trade, rural infrastructure, risk management, transportation, tax policy, climate change, food safety, among many others. **CF**

Life Cycle Assessment of Canadian Chicken Taking Place in 2017



Social license and public trust are now major defining issues for agriculture in Canada. In fact, as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada develops the Next Policy Framework (the next agriculture policy framework and its funding), public trust has been identified as a priority area.

Consumer concerns are evolving and can include a variety of issues such as health, nutrition, food safety, sustainability, animal welfare, ethics, food security and reliability of supply.

Canadian chicken farmers have addressed a number of these issues with the implementation of on-farm programs and industry policies which demonstrate the commitment of our industry to evolve and respond to emerging issues. The initiation of a life cycle assessment (LCA) for Canadian chicken is another example of this.

A life cycle assessment is an internationally recognized way to study the impacts and efficiencies associated with all stages of a product's life. For chicken, this will include all steps in the supply chain, from broiler breeder and hatchery, to the farm, feed mills, transport and processing. With support from these other supply chain partners, Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) has decided to initiate an LCA for Canadian chicken and the study is underway.

Groupe Agéco, a consulting firm highly qualified in LCAs, is conducting the study. They have previously completed LCAs for a number of other Canadian commodities including Dairy Farmers of Canada, Ontario Pork, Pulse Canada, and canola, potatoes, eggs and chicken in Alberta.

Hundreds of LCAs, covering a broad range of commodities, production conditions and regions, have been conducted in recent years. LCAs can

help an industry determine which aspects of their production are efficient, and where they can improve efficiency to reduce impacts.

CFC will be conducting both an environmental and social LCA. The environmental aspect will look at carbon footprint, non-renewable energy use, water use, eutrophication and acidification, land use and biodiversity, and food waste. The social LCA will include topics such as governance, economic performance, animal health and food safety, environmental integrity, relationships with local communities and worker well-being.


CFC IS EXCITED TO BE LEADING THIS INITIATIVE AND HOPES THAT ALL FARMERS WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROJECT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY.

The study results will provide an assessment of the environmental and social performance of the Canadian chicken industry, as well as a comparison of chicken with other protein sources. A historical comparison will also be

performed to evaluate efficiencies and improvements over the years. A similar study was recently completed by Egg Farmers of Canada, their results can be seen at www.eggfarmers.ca/2016/07/50-years-growing-50-years-greening/

For the farm-level portion of data collection, surveys will be sent to all farmers for the opportunity to contribute to the study. Surveys will be designed to be easy-to-complete by gathering as much info as possible from secondary sources so that farmer questions are short and targeted. All responses are kept strictly confidential and only aggregated results (anonymous) will ever be reported.

The results from this study will help everyone in the chicken supply chain to do a better job of communicating about the great work being done by the Canadian chicken industry. We often get questions about the social or environmental aspects of our industry, and the LCA results will bring credibility to our answers.

It will also help us to identify areas for improvement and where education may be needed about ways to reduce impacts, and this will be helpful in our efforts to improve. To see an example of the communication material that can come from this type of study, have a look at the factsheet that Agéco produced from Dairy Farmers of Canada's LCA: www.dairyfarmers.ca/what-we-do/programs/dairy-farming-and-the-environment. 



Antimicrobial Use – Reporting and Calibrating Medicators

This article aims to highlight and clarify two areas of the On-Farm Food Safety Program (OFFSAP) where there is sometimes confusion: reporting extra-label medication on the flock sheet and the calibrating of water medicators.

EXTRA-LABEL DRUG USE

With each flock of chickens that are marketed, a flock sheet must be completed and sent to the processing plant for review by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). There has been a lot of discussion about the flock sheets over the years and certainly some frustrations with filling them out. Efforts have been made to streamline the process and make it as straightforward as possible. The information in the flock sheet is required by federal regulations to be reported, and is enforced by CFIA. They are also a tool for demonstrating that important food safety measures were followed, specifically in regards to drug use and withdrawal times.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE REPORTED?

Any time a medication is used in an extra-label manner, the use must be recorded on the flock sheet under question number 6, along with the accompanying information about the medication used.

WHAT IS EXTRA-LABEL USE?

Extra-label medication is a drug product used in any manner that is not consistent with what is indicated on the label, package, or information insert as approved by Health Canada. This can only be prescribed by a veterinarian and any use is considered extra-label if:

- The route of administration differs from the label (e.g. feed vs water)

CFC On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program (2014) and Animal Care Program (2009) Flock-Specific Records
VERSION 5.2

Production Information	Chick Quality Assessment			
	Quality Assessment	Upon Receipt of Chicks		3-4 Day-old Chicks
Quota Period: _____	Acceptable	Not Acceptable	Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Barn #: _____				
Floor #: _____	Alertness			
Placement Date: _____	Vigour			
	Condition			
	Normality			

Water – Record the water treatment method and verification results (at least twice during the grow-out)

Water Treatment Product	Date(s) Used	Chemical Concentration Verification	
		Date	Results (e.g. ppm pH)

Feed
Each load of feed is visually inspected and the bill checked for medications and kept in the producer's file: _____ (initial)

Record the date that control measures were used when switching from a medicated feed with a withdrawal period to feed without a withdrawal period*	Record the type and amount of ingredients (e.g. wheat) added to finished feeds*	Record the dates of feed samples (if required)

* For single-bin systems record the date when the sides of the bin were knocked down to prevent feed hang-ups; for double-bin systems record the date when the switch to the feed bin without a withdrawal period occurred.

Feed Transfer Record Form																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date feed moved</th> <th>Destination name and lot #</th> <th>Destination farm name and lot #</th> <th>List any medications with withdrawal periods used in the flock</th> <th>Method of transport</th> <th>Sample taken</th> <th>Cross-contamination prevention measures used at the original bin</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date feed moved	Destination name and lot #	Destination farm name and lot #	List any medications with withdrawal periods used in the flock	Method of transport	Sample taken	Cross-contamination prevention measures used at the original bin														
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Visitors Log Book

Date	Name	Has there been any previous poultry contact within the last 24 hours?

- The drug is designed for another species (e.g. Uniprim is only approved for horses)
- The dosage or duration of use differs from the label instructions
- The drug is given in combination with another drug where that combination is not approved (e.g. mix of Salinomycin, Bacitracin and Nicarbazine in feed)

For poultry, all extra-label use requires the prescribing veterinarian to use a CgFARAD reference number. When prescribing extra-label drug use, vets submit a specific request for withdrawal information to the University of Saskatoon or the University of Guelph and then receive a CgFARAD (Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank) reference number for use.

ANY TIME A MEDICATION IS USED IN AN EXTRA-LABEL MANNER, THE USE MUST BE RECORDED ON THE FLOCK SHEET UNDER QUESTION NUMBER 6, ALONG WITH THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEDICATION USED.

HOW TO DETERMINE OF A MEDICATION IS USED EXTRA-LABEL

Farmers can identify if there are extra-label medications in their feed ration by reviewing the feed slips from the feed mill, or the vet prescription. If drugs were used in an extra-label manner, there will be a CgFARAD number. CgFARAD numbers begin with either ON or SK and are followed by a series of 11 numbers (ex. ON – 456901 – 11350).

Any feed slip/prescription with a CgFARAD number must be reported in Question 6 of the Flock Sheet. During OFFSAP audits, auditors will cross-reference the feed slips and vet scripts with the flock sheet.

CALIBRATING MEDICATORS


Calibrating medicators is an important step to ensure that, should the flock need it, any medicine delivered through the water is given at the correct dosage and concentration. OFFSAP requires that medicators be tested each time before medication is administered. Even if medication has not been given through the water in many months or even years, it is important for farmers to know how to perform the calibration in

the case of an emergency where birds become sick and require treatment through the water.

Farmers are required to be able to explain the process of calibrating the medicator to auditors during the OFFSAP audit.

The following steps describe one method for calibration, but other protocols may be provided in manufacturer recommendations.

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.

If the correct amounts are disappearing out of the measuring cup, then the medicator is working properly. If not, your medicator needs servicing. As an example, 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. 



Agriculture Day in Canada and Food Freedom Day. **Can you believe it?**

February is done and it's time to check in on what went on in the world of Agriculture in the first part of 2017! On February 8th, Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) was proud to take part in the Food Freedom Day celebrations with our Canadian agriculture partners.

What is Food Freedom Day, you ask?

Food Freedom Day represents the day Canadians will have earned enough income to pay for their grocery bill for the entire year. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) estimates that it would take only 39 days of work to cover food costs for the average Canadian in 2017. In comparison, tax freedom day, the date when you have earned enough income to pay your taxes for the year typically occurs in the summer.

FUN FACT: this number is much lower than some other countries! This indicates that Canada has a strong agriculture sector; this is thanks to the hard work farmers put in every day to provide Canadians with high-quality, affordable food.

CFA and CFC have been highlighting the ever earlier date each year of Food Freedom Day since 2007 – and this year it was no different! CFA President Ron Bonnett was joined by Vice-President Humphrey Banack and Vice-President

Marcel Groleau to serve up some yummy soup on Sparks Street, here in Ottawa. During lunch, CFC's Classic Chicken Noodle Soup recipe was served to Members of Parliament, Senators and people dropping by. This event was a great success for CFA and got Canadians talking about the importance of Canadian food (and how yummy chicken soup can be!).

2017's Food Freedom Day also served as a kick off for a number of activities that CFA will be leading in order to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and the role agriculture plays in Canada. One of these activities was the celebration of the first ever Canadian Agriculture Day which took place on February 16th!

CFC was a proud sponsor of the Ottawa portion of this day, which included keynote speeches from Canada's very own Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Minister Lawrence MacAulay and Michael Hoffort, President and Chief Executive Officer of Farm Credit Canada. The afternoon also saw a panel discussion on the importance of youth, technology and innovation in the agriculture sector. This panel included



McDonald's Canada CEO John Betts and Zenia Tata, Executive Director of Global Development XPRIZE.

To finish off this exciting day, a reception was held on Parliament Hill where Ministers, Members of Parliament, Senators, and stakeholders alike discussed and reflected on the diversity of Canada's food industry.

But that's not all – Canada's Agriculture Day was also a huge success on social media! There were celebrations across the country, as Canadians got together to discuss the importance of Canadian agriculture and food. On Twitter, the hashtag #CDNAgDay was trending #1 in Canada for most of the day – an amazing feat for a first-time event. CFC joined the conversation on Twitter and on Instagram to help amplify the reach.

What an exciting month! CFC was so happy to see this overwhelmingly positive discussion around agriculture and Canadian Food. With Canada's 150th around the corner, we can't wait to see what else the agriculture community has in store!

Only 2 issues left!

The newsletter is going digital starting August 2017.

Make sure your provincial board has your current contact information – including an e-mail address to continue receiving *The Chicken Farmer* once we go digital.