

# THE CHICKEN FARMER

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## AN UNPRECEDENTED OUTBREAK – AVIAN INFLUENZA IN 2022

The current avian influenza (AI) outbreak is the largest ever seen in Canada and the toll it has taken on both birds and people is immense. With hopes that cases continue to subside through the summer, both industry and government are working diligently to prepare for the fall and an expected increase in cases as birds migrate south for the winter.

**Signs from Europe** in late 2021 indicated that the virus circulating in wild birds was more virulent than in the past and cases were numerous in wild birds, small flocks, and commercial poultry in several countries. It was expected that North America could be similarly impacted, but the extent of the impact was unknown at that time.

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### SUMMARY OF THE CANADIAN OUTBREAK

The first commercial flock confirmed with AI in Canada was a turkey barn in Nova Scotia in early February. This followed from two cases in small flocks in Newfoundland that were confirmed in December 2021, and then in January. From there, first cases were confirmed in Ontario, Alberta, Quebec, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and New Brunswick in late March and April.

Nationally, as of July 12, 2022, there have been 108 infected commercial and small flocks, representing just over 2 million birds. 82 were poultry flocks and 26 were ‘non-poultry’ flocks, according to the OIE definition where any operation selling products off the farm is considered poultry.

AMONG COMMERCIAL FARMS, DUCKS AND TURKEYS HAD THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES, FOLLOWED BY BROILERS, LAYERS, AND BROILER BREEDERS.

The Atlantic provinces have not had a case since late April, Saskatchewan and Ontario since late May, and cases were last reported in B.C., Alberta, and Manitoba in early to mid-June. Quebec had a few new cases in early July.

Small backyard flocks accounted for 50% of the confirmed cases but less than 0.5% of the affected birds.

Among commercial farms, ducks and turkeys had the highest number of confirmed cases, followed by broilers, layers, and broiler breeders.

In every affected province, farmers and industry staff have stepped up to manage the disease response – adding this work to their already full ‘day jobs.’

The dedication and efforts of all involved has been remarkable, appreciated, and paramount to keeping the entire Canadian poultry sector functioning.

Government has of course played a leading role in the response, and reports from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) indicated that over 600 staff at some points were dedicated to the outbreak across the country. Chicken Farmers of Canada is grateful to our partners in government who have been involved, and for the productive and regular dialogue that has been facilitated through the national level calls several times a week.

This added workload has not been without consequence, however. It is recognized that this outbreak has had a tremendous strain on farmer mental health and on human resources in nearly all provinces, within both industry and government. Chicken Farmers of Canada has included links [here](#) to relevant resources for mental health support.

### SUMMARY OF THE U.S. OUTBREAK

Avian influenza cases in the United States began in February, around the same time the first commercial case was detected in Canada. In total, as of July 12, 2022, the U.S. has had 385 confirmed cases, 228 of which are designated as poultry. Thirty-seven states and over 40 million birds have been impacted.

### PREPARING FOR THE FALL

Indications are that there will be an increase in cases again this fall as migratory birds head south for the winter. At the end of June, the National Poultry Group (CFC, Turkey Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council) and the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada held an initial ‘lessons learned’ session with CFIA. The purpose of the session was to review aspects of the response that went well and discuss areas of opportunity or improvement for the next outbreak. A full report of that meeting was presented at the July CFC board meeting and the National Poultry Group will be following up with CFIA on the key items discussed.





These ‘lessons learned’ events will also be occurring at the provincial level with the Regional Emergency Operations Centres, to prepare for a potential increase in cases in the fall.

To stay up-to-date with wild bird surveillance results through the fall – CFIA’s National Emergency Operations Centre has an **online dashboard** which posts wild bird surveillance results from across the country. ■

## COMING SOON!

### Young Farmers Program

APPLICATIONS WILL BE SENT OUT SOON FOR OUR YOUNG FARMERS PROGRAM, STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION.



# CPRC UPDATE

## CAN CANOLA MEAL DO MORE?

### Fermentation looks to unlock probiotic properties

Like many researchers in Canada and around the world, Doug Korver is exploring effective, practical alternatives to antibiotics in poultry production. His team at the University of Alberta are getting ready to feed fermented canola meal to broilers to validate the probiotic properties of this altered feed ingredient.

A professor in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Korver is part of a multidisciplinary team looking at antibiotic alternatives, led by University of Guelph's Shayan Sharif. Working with food microbiologist Dr. Michael Gaenzle, Korver and graduate student Vi Pham are heading into the final testing stage of fermented canola meal as a probiotic feed additive. "If we can work with something already in poultry diets

lactic acid bacteria to ferment canola meal and then extracted the phenolic acids," says Pham.

The phenolic acid she extracted from fermentation was then added to poultry pathogens in the lab – *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Clostridium perfringens*.

"The good news is we learned that fermentation increases the antimicrobial activity of phenolic acid, compared to unfermented canola meal," says Pham. "And this is important news for bird health and human health."

Many prebiotics and probiotics are being explored to arm birds with better gut health for a stronger stance against infection. "What our research has shown is that by fermenting canola meal with lactobacillus bacteria, you are essentially

converting the phenolic acid that is already there into more potent antimicrobial compounds that are naturally present," says Korver.

### FROM LAB TO LIVE BIRDS

For an antibiotic alternative to be successful it has to work in commercial production. While the team's research looks promising in the lab, new alternatives must

also be easy to incorporate into commercial operations. Korver and Pham are moving into the live animal testing portion of their work, and they'll be fermenting canola meal on a larger scale to incorporate into the daily diet of broiler birds.

Broilers will be fed diets that contain fermented canola meal for the trial work at University of Alberta research facilities. "We'll be looking to demonstrate that fermented canola meal is effective at reducing potential pathogens in the chicken gut," says Korver. "We're focusing on two human pathogens – *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*, and a poultry pathogen – *Clostridium perfringens*."

As a feed ingredient, they'll also be calibrating how much of the fermented canola meal to add to the broiler diet. "We'll test a few different levels of inclusion in the diet, and then based on the results will be able to choose the optimal level for further testing," says Korver.

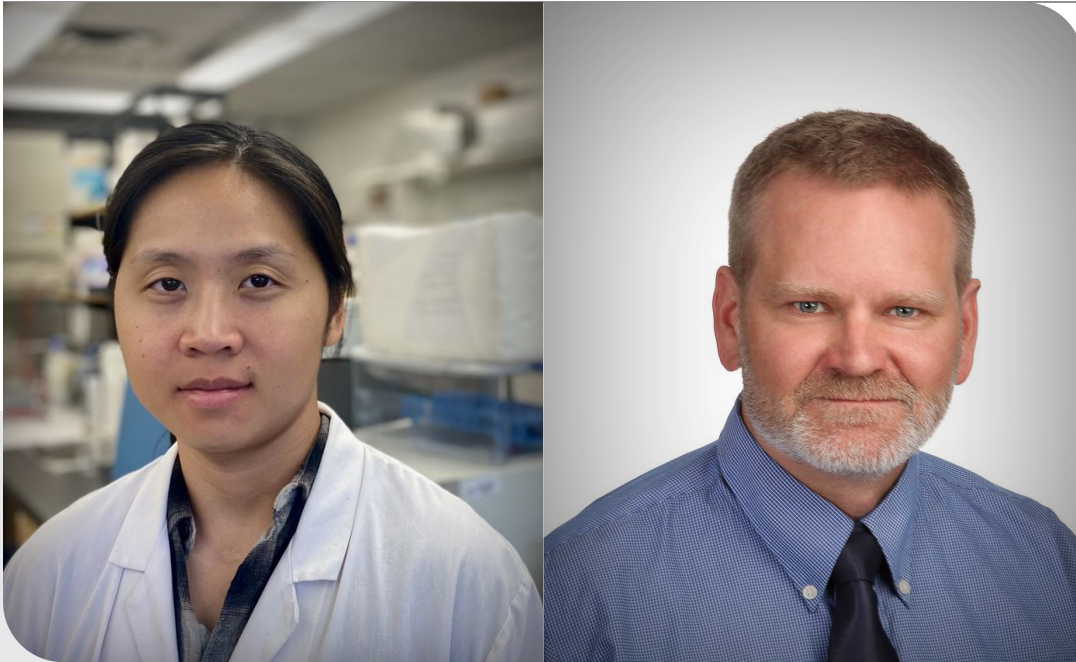
They will look at the impact of fermentation on the nutritional characteristics of canola meal, and also track performance measures on the birds including growth, feed conversion, nutrient digestibility, and carcass yield.

"IF WE CAN WORK WITH SOMETHING ALREADY IN POULTRY DIETS THAT HAS A PROBIOTIC EFFECT AND BRINGS OTHER HEALTH BENEFITS, THAT'S VERY PROMISING."

that has a probiotic effect and brings other health benefits, that's very promising," says Korver.

Canola meal naturally contains a lot of phenolic acid – compounds with known antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. For the lab portion of the research project, Pham fermented canola meal by adding probiotic lactobacilli. "I used





Left: Vi Pham  
Right: Doug Forver

Pham is also interested in evaluating the probiotic effect of the fermented canola meal. “The lactic acid bacteria I use to ferment the canola meal is a common probiotic with proven effects on humans and animals. So, I expect to find less *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Clostridium* by feeding fermented canola meal,” says Pham.

### THE BIG GOAL IN THE GUT

The main goal with any antibiotic alternative is not to eliminate bacteria from the gut, or even eliminate all of certain troublesome pathogens, but to make it difficult for pathogens to establish, proliferate, and cause problems.

And that’s where probiotics like fermented canola meal come in. “It’s important to ensure the gut is stable and probiotics occupy ecological niches in the bird gut that prevent pathogens from establishing,” says Korver.

### FARM-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES

The big question for Korver – and others searching for antibiotic

alternatives – is how to come up with alternatives that are as economically efficient as possible so the industry can incorporate them. “This work is so interesting because in a single step, we have used two different mechanisms – the antimicrobial phenolic compounds inherent in canola meal and the lactic acid used for fermentation – to create a possible new alternative.”

While the fermentation process shows promise for unlocking the antimicrobial properties of canola meal, the research team know the process still needs some work as it produces a wet feed ingredient. If they can make it work on a small scale, and the live bird results show as much promise as the lab work, they’ll look at how to make it a practical process for the industry. That may include options for on-farm fermentation, as well as looking at the possibilities of a dry, stabilized fermented canola meal.

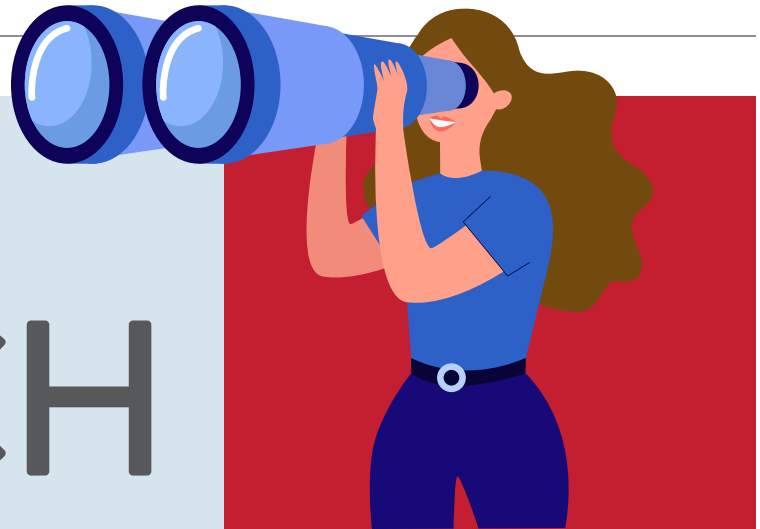
“The initial approach we are taking is that feeding fermented canola meal would be an on-farm

process,” says Korver. “Down the road, we’ll probably see if the product can be dried and be stable enough to add in at the feed mill, making it an easier ingredient to incorporate.”

Korver expects results from the next phase of their research, feeding canola meal to broilers, to be completed late summer or early fall of this year.

### FUNDING

This research is funded by the Canadian Poultry Research Council as part of the Poultry Science Cluster which is supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as part of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Additional funding was received from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, George Weston Seeding Food Innovation, Alberta Agriculture Funding Consortium, Lallemand Inc., and Compute Canada. ■



# HILL WATCH

## 2022 LOBBY DAY

Chicken Farmers of Canada's (CFC) representatives from across the country travelled to Ottawa for our annual Lobby Day on May 17<sup>th</sup>. For the first time since the pandemic, CFC representatives and Parliamentarians met in-person to discuss issues impacting the chicken sector and Canadian farmers.

CFC's Lobby Day allowed farmers and CFC board members to meet with their Members of Parliament and Senators to have important conversations on a variety of topics like supply management, trade agreements, spent fowl, labour shortages, avian influenza, and sustainability.

We had a successful lobby day consisting of 54 meetings, 7 of which were held virtually. CFC also had group meetings with Bloc Québécois caucus members, Quebec Conservative caucus members, and Alberta Conservative caucus members. In total, CFC met with almost 70 Parliamentarians, including:

- » Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau
- » Minister Mona Fortier
- » Minister Lawrence MacAulay
- » Minister Ginette Petitpas-Taylor
- » 6 Senators
- » Agriculture Critics: Conservative Member John Barlow and Bloc Québécois Member Yves Perron
- » Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition, Luc Berthold
- » 4 Parliamentary Secretaries
- » Senior Staff Members to Ministers and The Leader of the Official Opposition







**Top left:** CFC Lobby Day Reception - Kerry Towle, Dennis Steinwand, Senator Donald Neil Plett, Stuart Nikkel, Member of Parliament James Bezan. **Middle left:** CFC Lobby Day Reception - Member of Parliament John Barlow, Kerry Towle, Phil Boyd. **Bottom left:** CFC Lobby Day Reception - Marie-Eve Tremblay, Member of Parliament Rachel Bendayan, Pierre-Luc Leblanc. **Top right:** CFC Lobby Day Reception - Member of Parliament Philip Lawrence, Member of Parliament Dave Epp, CFC Chair Tim Klompaker, Member of Parliament Glen Motz, Member of Parliament Ryan Williams.

CFC hosted a reception the following evening for Parliamentarians, political staffers, and industry members at the Metropolitan Brasserie in downtown Ottawa. The evening allowed for continued conversation on the importance of the chicken sector.

Whether meeting in-person on Parliament Hill, virtually, or at the CFC reception, our representatives received strong messages of support for our farmers, the chicken sector, and supply management.

**PMB C-234: An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act**

CFC has been closely monitoring the progress of Private Member’s Bill C-234, *An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Act*, in the House of Commons. Bill C-234 was introduced by Conservative Member of Parliament Ben Lobb. This Bill looks to amend the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* by expanding the definition of eligible farming machinery and extending the exemption for qualifying farming fuel to marketable natural gas and propane.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Bill C-234 passed second reading in the House of Commons with 170 votes. Currently, the Bill is before the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food for consideration, and debate will resume once the House of Commons returns this fall.



As members of the Agriculture Carbon Alliance, CFC is pleased to support Bill C-234 and hopes that it continues to receive support in the House of Commons by all parties.

You can find more information on Bill C-234 here: <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-234>

### RECIPE CONTEST/ DOWNTOWN DINER

CFC, Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC), Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC), and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP), hosted the annual *Downtown Diner* this past June 9<sup>th</sup> on Sparks Street in Ottawa. Poultry and egg farmers from across Canada were on hand to speak with government officials and the public on how supply management supports our country. It was nice to see Parliamentarians stop by to speak with our farmers and show their support for the poultry and egg sectors.

In conjunction with the *Downtown Diner*, CFC, EFC, TFC, and CHEP partnered again earlier in the year to host the 2022 *Parliamentarian Recipe Contest*. Throughout the month of April, Members of Parliament and Senators were encouraged to submit their favourite chicken, egg, or turkey recipe as a show of support for CFC, EFC, TFC and CHEP's ongoing food bank donation initiatives. The winning recipes were also featured on menu at the *Downtown Diner*.

Of the amazing recipes that were submitted, three finalists were chosen:

- » John Nater, Member of Parliament for Perth-Wellington: Warm Curried Chicken Salad Wrap recipe
- » Leah Taylor Roy, Member of Parliament for Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill: "Dutch Kate" Frittata recipe
- » Soraya Martinez Ferrada, Member of Parliament for Hochelaga: Turkey Meatball recipe



Downtown Diner - Clair Doan (TFC), Kathryn Doan (TFC), Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Nick de Graaf (CFC), Brian Bilkes (CHEP).





Also at the *Downtown Diner*, poultry and egg farmers drew the names of three food banks across Canada to receive a combined donation total of \$20,000. Greener Village-Fredericton, Feed Nova Scotia, and Harvest Manitoba were the recipients of the donation from Canada’s poultry and egg farmers.

## FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE

CFC, Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC), Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC), Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC), and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers (CHEP), came together (as the SM-5) in Regina, Saskatchewan from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup> to sponsor the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference and Trade Show. The SM-5 is a long-term sponsor of the FCM conference, which allows for the unique opportunity to meet with thousands of delegates from across Canada, including senior municipal officials, Mayors, and Councillors, to discuss critical issues affecting municipalities. This year’s theme was *Together for Recovery*, which emphasized the need for inclusive and collaborative recovery at the local level.

At the conference, the SM-5 hosted a trade show booth and a Farm Hub. Dairy, poultry, and egg farmers were at both locations to speak with delegates and answer questions on supply management and the dairy, poultry, and egg sectors. Guests were also served Canadian dairy, chicken, egg and turkey breakfast and lunch bites. To kick off the conference, SM-5 representatives attended the Big City Mayors Caucus breakfast and networked with Mayors from across the country, while discussing the importance of supply management to their cities.

At the Farm Hub, the SM-5 hosted a speaker series featuring supply management experts and farmers to discuss topics like the road to net zero emissions, sustainability, and supporting Canadian communities. CFC hosted a virtual farm tour and live discussion with Saskatchewan chicken farmer, Tiffany Martinka, which was very well attended and generated a lot of conversation on the chicken sector.

## CPC LEADERSHIP RACE

CFC has been monitoring the Conservative Party of Canada leadership race, which is well underway. The candidates include MP Pierre Poilievre, Jean Charest,

Federation of Canadian Municipalities - FCM speaker series with Saskatchewan chicken farmer, Tiffany Martinka at the FCM Farm Hub and trade show booth.



MP Scott Aitchison, MP Leslyn Lewis, and Roman Barber. It is important to note that during the campaign and debates there has been discussion around the supply management system. While Poilievre, Charest and Lewis have come out in support of supply management, Aitchison and Barber have campaigned for its abolition.

Around 675,000 people have registered as members for the CPC leadership vote and a new leader will be announced on September 10, 2022. CFC will continue to monitor the CPC leadership race and will provide updates.

# CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE UPDATE



The Canadian Federation of Agriculture held its summer meeting in July in Saskatoon. The meeting had a full agenda, with presentations from the World Farmers Organization, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, an environmental update from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and a trade update from Global Affairs Canada. CFA delegates also heard from sponsors such as Nutrien, CropLife, and Telus Agriculture. There were important roundtable board discussions held over the two days on issues impacting members directly, such as surveying changes on farm inputs for farmers, addressing animal activism, and reaffirming resolutions brought forward at the AGM in March.

At the Board meeting, the CFA executive also announced the appointment of Scott Ross as the new Executive Director of the organization.

## FEDERAL PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL AGRICULTURE MINISTERS ROUNDTABLE

Each year, CFA intentionally plans its summer meeting in conjunction with the Federal Provincial Territorial Agriculture Ministers meeting in order to allow for a roundtable discussion and networking between Ministers and stakeholders. In advance of the meeting, CFA and other partners, including CFC, released a statement on desired outcomes from the meeting.

At the roundtable, Ministers met with farm leaders to discuss the challenges facing Canadian agriculture, as well as the sector's vision for continued green growth. The meeting highlighted that the Next Policy Framework (NPF) presented an opportunity for FPT governments to demonstrate a true partnership with industry to achieve shared ambitions, by investing in the full range of tools needed to make Canadian agriculture a global leader in truly sustainable growth.

Following the roundtable, the Ministers met on July 21<sup>st</sup> and released a statement on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, which you can view [here](#).

The statement unveiled a \$500 million dollar increase to the cost-shared funding envelope over the course of the five years of the NPF. This represents a 25% increase in funding, with half of that increase dedicated to climate change and emissions reductions programming.

Improvements will also be made to the AgriStability program, increasing the compensation rate to 80%, while committing to further changes to program timeliness in the initial years of the framework.

Ministers also spoke to Canada's leadership as a producer of food and the need to ensure emissions reductions efforts do not impede Canada's ability to contribute to domestic and global food security.

Also mentioned was the continued support for the industry-led development of a Grocery Code of Conduct in Canada with a revised deadline of November 2022.





**Left:** Annual Federal Provincial Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers Roundtable, which took place at the CFA Summer Meeting.

**Right:** CFA Reception - CFC Chair, Tim Klompmaker and Hon. Lisa Thompson

Link to CFA press release: <https://www.cfa-fca.ca/2022/07/14/joint-statement-on-the-upcoming-next-policy-framework-npf-for-agriculture/>

Link to Ministers statement: <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/07/federal-provincial-and-territorial-ministers-of-agriculture-reach-a-new-partnership-agreement-and-inject-new-funds-to-support-the-sector.html>





# WORLD TRADE ROUND UP

## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION - 12<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

After two postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Trade Organization (WTO) finally held its 12<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting, known as the MC12, in Geneva, Switzerland at the end of June. The meeting, which began on Sunday June 12, went into nearly two full days of overtime to reach a package deal ministers could all agree to. While expectations were low, the stakes of not producing a multilateral agreement were high as the WTO had been unable to do so since the agreement to eliminate export subsidies in Nairobi, Kenya in 2015.

The package that was finally reached in the early morning hours of Friday June 16 includes a ministerial declaration on food security, a World Food Program exemption from export restrictions, an agreement on part of the fisheries subsidies work, and an intellectual property rights waiver on COVID-19 vaccine production, along with an overarching MC12 declaration. Although an agriculture work program had been on the table for discussion, ultimately there was no agreement on this piece. While this does not prevent countries from continuing to negotiate on agricultural issues, it does mean that there is no specific

list of issues that Members have committed to continue negotiations on post-MC12.

The entire MC12 package can be found [here](#).

WTO members have agreed to consider holding a follow-up semi-ministerial conference in March 2023, to provide them with more time to discuss outstanding issues such as the public stockholding of agricultural products for food security purposes, and the remaining elements of the fish subsidies agreement. The next full Ministerial Conference (MC13) will take place in December 2023, in either Cameroon or the United Arab Emirates.

## ONGOING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Canada is currently involved in multiple negotiations with potential free trade partners including Mercosur, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), India, Indonesia, and the United Kingdom (UK). As well, as a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), Canada is involved with the UK's accession process into that trade partnership.

The negotiations with Mercosur (comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) and ASEAN (Brunei Darussalam,

WTO members secure unprecedented package of trade outcomes at MC12





Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) are particularly concerning to the Canadian chicken sector as the former includes Brazil, the world's largest chicken exporter, and Argentina, a rapidly emerging player in the global chicken market, and the latter includes Thailand, the world's fourth largest chicken exporter.

Canada and Mercosur, which have been engaging virtually on non-sensitive issues since the beginning of the pandemic, held a virtual meeting of the chief negotiators in early June. There they agreed to continue to meet virtually and decided not to set a date yet for the next and eighth round of talks – a signal that contentious issues, such as market access, will not be addressed in the near term.

Canada is still working with ASEAN to schedule their first round of trade discussions. During the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Canada Senior Economic Official Meeting in June, Canada and ASEAN finalized the Terms of Reference for the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which is comprised of the Chief Negotiators from Canada and all of the ASEAN Member States and have agreed to hold the first TNC meeting in a virtual format at the end of August; dates as yet to be confirmed.

The ongoing talks with Indonesia and India are also proceeding slowly. Indonesia is still going through its domestic political process to be able to engage in a trade negotiation. The next round of talks with India, which is set to take place in a hybrid format from August 8 to 12, will begin the discussion on goods and market access. Neither of these trade partners

currently export chicken into Canada, and India has so far not signalled any interest in gaining access to the Canadian chicken market.

The Canada-UK free trade negotiations began following the April 1, 2021 launch of the Canada-UK Trade Continuity Agreement, an interim agreement intended to ensure uninterrupted trade between the two countries following the UK's departure from the European Union (EU) and subsequently the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA). Two rounds of negotiations have already taken place both in hybrid formats and a third round, also in a hybrid format, is scheduled to take place the week of September 12<sup>th</sup> in London, England. The plan is to

Canada-UK bilateral negotiations, expect to be completed this year. Currently, CPTPP members are reviewing the UK's first market access offer; this will be discussed by the members in Tokyo, Japan from July 24 to 28. Although China, Taiwan, and Ecuador have also officially requested to accede to the trade pact, priority is being given to concluding the process with the UK before even agreeing to begin any new accession negotiations.

Overall, Canada's Minister of International Trade, the Honourable Mary Ng, and Canadian trade negotiators have been consistent in affirming their government's commitment that no more concessions will be made to supply managed markets. Nonetheless, given the already sizable market

OVERALL, CANADA'S MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, THE HONOURABLE MARY NG, AND CANADIAN TRADE NEGOTIATORS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT IN AFFIRMING THEIR GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT THAT NO MORE CONCESSIONS WILL BE MADE TO SUPPLY MANAGED MARKETS.

hold trade rounds every 10-12 weeks to reach the objective of concluding the agreement by April 1, 2024. Canada's negotiators have reported that both countries are highly ambitious in the areas of environment, gender, small-medium sized business. The upcoming third round will see a consolidation of negotiating texts.

The UK's CPTPP accession talks, which are occurring in parallel to the

access Canada has already provided to its trade partners, CFC staff will continue to closely monitor all these talks. In 2022, Canada's chicken market offered up 110 million kilograms of access to its trade partners, and this volume will continue growing until the CPTPP and Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUMSA) are fully implemented. ■

# MIXING MEDICATED FEED ON-FARM



When mixing medicated feed on-farm, measures are needed to prevent bacterial contamination and to control the risk associated with handling medicated products (e.g. weighing the correct quantity of medications, that medications are properly mixed, and that medication withdrawal times are adhered to).

CFC's OFFSP focusses on food safety requirements; as a result, not all federally mandated feed related requirements are addressed in the OFFSP. Additionally, feed mills that sell feeds are considered commercial feed mills and are subject to different regulations.

## ON-FARM MEDICATED FEED MIXING CHECKLIST

- Buy inputs from reputable companies or manufacturers who have a quality control program.
- Develop a control program for your feed mixing operation. Record your control program in the SOP, or similar.
- Keep a feed mixing record.
  - » This includes the types of feed manufactured, the sequential order of feed manufactured, the medications used and their rates of inclusion.
  - » Record this on the On-Farm Feed Mixing Record, or similar
- Sequence, flush or physically clean the mixing equipment after manufacturing medicated feed to prevent cross contamination.
- Record the storage location (e.g. feed bin) where the feed is stored.
- Take a sample of the ingredients or the final feed.
  - » The sample is to be kept for 2 weeks after the flock has been marketed.
- If a deviation occurs during on-farm feed mixing (e.g. the wrong medication or quantity of medication), then actions need to be taken to reduce the potential risks. Examples of these actions could include:
  - » Removing feed (flushing or cleaning) from the feeding system.

- » Contacting the catching crew and/or processor to reschedule their activities.
- » Discussing the deviation with farm workers regarding the source of problem and taking appropriate corrective measures to prevent a re-occurrence.

## WHEN MIXING MEDICATIONS WITH A WITHDRAWAL PERIOD

Additional controls are needed when mixing medications that require a withdrawal period.

- Perform scale calibration tests at a minimum of every year.
- Perform mixer efficiency tests at a minimum of every 3 years.
- Keep a record of scale calibrations, laboratory reports for mixer efficiency tests, and any corrective actions taken.

## DO YOU ADD AN INGREDIENT (E.G. WHEAT) TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR COMMERCIALLY PURCHASED FEED?

- To meet the requirements of the CFC OFFSP, a sample of the added ingredient or the final feed need to be taken and kept for 2 weeks after the flock has been processed.
- Note: Adding an ingredient to a medicated commercial feed is considered on-farm feed mixing under the Feeds Act and Regulations; as such, be aware that additional requirements are needed to be compliant with the Feeds Regulations.