

THE CHICKEN FARMER

Volume 24, Issue 5 | 2022



THE IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic began in March 2020, and since then the world has witnessed increasing instances of supply chain disruption resulting from border closures, labour and packaging shortages, and most recently from the war in the Ukraine. These supply chain disruptions have highlighted the vulnerabilities that have always been present in global and local food systems, bringing to the forefront the critical importance of food security, and the need to ensure the consistent access to safe, affordable and healthy foodstuffs at all times.

It is against this backdrop of accruing and connected crises that policymakers must take a balanced approach to ensuring food security. An overreliance on international leaves nations vulnerable to politically driven, environmental, or labour-related supply chain disruptions with potentially devastating effects.

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THE AHC ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE.



THE NFACC ACHIEVEMENT REPORT IS AVAILABLE



www.chicken.ca
www.chickenfarmers.ca





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A strong and productive domestic agricultural and agri-food sector is a core attribute of national food security, one which can be complemented with predictable and stable international trade.

The fact that trade should serve a complimentary role to the domestic sector must not be overlooked. Relying too much on trade as primary source for food is a risky undertaking. Consider the perilous position that net-importers of wheat find themselves in as a result of the Russian war in the Ukraine, which has severely constricted the global wheat market.

RELYING TOO MUCH ON TRADE AS PRIMARY SOURCE FOR FOOD IS A RISKY UNDERTAKING.

The global chicken market is also far from immune to disruption, particularly in light of the rising prevalence of animal diseases, such as High Pathogen Avian Influenza. Animal disease outbreaks entail border closures and disrupt trade flows. With 73% – nearly three quarters – of all chicken imports being sourced from only two countries, Brazil and the United States, it becomes quickly clear that relying on such a shallow global market poses a significant food security risk.

Without a robust and productive domestic sector, a country could find itself at the mercy of the vagaries of both natural and human-driven circumstances.

At the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, UN members agreed that the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals is dependent on the fostering of stable local food systems that are supported by fair and rules-based trade. It is vitally important therefore that countries ensure all the international and domestic policies they agree to support both these important components of food security and socio-economic development.

The World Farmers’ Organization (WFO) echoed this stance prior to the World Trade Organization’s recent ministerial meeting in June. The WFO issued a statement affirming that, although trade plays an important role in the food supply chain, national governments must maintain the right to prioritize their domestic agricultural sectors as this is key to not only providing safe and secure supplies of food to their citizens, but also to supporting the well-being of their rural communities.

Chicken Farmers of Canada stands with WFO and the United Nations on this important issue and will continue to demonstrate that supply management is an effective policy tool to achieving food system sustainability and delivering food security to Canadians. ■

LICENCES

Licence Applications for 2023-2027 licences are now available through the www.chicken-farmers.ca website.

For industry members with inter-provincial or export trade licence expiring December 31, 2022, the application for a 2023-2027 inter-provincial or export trade licence can be found [here](#).

For processors whose market development licence expires December 31, 2022, the application for a 2023-2027 market development licence can be found [here](#).

For producers and processors whose specialty chicken licence expires December 31, 2022, the application for a 2023-2027 specialty chicken licence can be found [here](#).

Please complete the application and return to Chicken Farmers of Canada with the appropriate fee, without delay, to allow us time to process it before the end of the current year.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUNG FARMERS

The 2023-2024 applications for CFC's **Young Farmers Program** are now open! Apply now for this amazing professional development opportunity!

The Young Farmers Program teaches young leaders in the chicken sector about governance, succession planning and personal branding, while also getting to network with key agriculture and government stakeholders. The program includes travel, parliamentary receptions, lobbying opportunities, and training sessions.

CFC will be choosing five young farmers to participate in the 18-month program. We will have a distribution of candidates from across the country:

- » 1 representative from the Atlantic Provinces
- » 1 from Ontario
- » 1 from Quebec
- » 2 from the Western Provinces

*see website for other eligibility requirements

The Deadline to apply is November 18th, 2022, at 11:59pm. If you are a farmer, between the ages of 18 and 40, hold quota, or have a reference letter from a quota holder*, then don't miss out on this awesome opportunity to learn more about the sector and get the tools and training to continue growing and promoting chicken farming in Canada!

CFC hosted a webinar for applicants and provinces on the Young Farmers Program last month. This webinar provided more information on the program and answered any questions that applicants may have. Access the webinar [HERE](#) (audio is only in English, but the text is in both English and French). If there are any other questions please feel free to email youngfarmers@chicken.ca


Chicken Farmers of Canada's

Young Farmers Program

Apply Now!

Deadline is November 18th 2022





CPRC UPDATE

PROTEIN COMMON IN MILK MAY HELP EARLY GUT GROWTH IN BROILERS

The first 10 days of life are crucial for a broiler chick's fragile digestive system, and exposure to harmful pathogens can lead to poor growth and health issues. As Canada's poultry industry looks at reducing preventative antibiotic use, researchers are looking for new opportunities to make a bird's digestive system stronger, faster – using a protein that is commonly found in milk.

Dr. Elijah Kiarie, who holds the McIntosh Family Professorship in Poultry Nutrition at the University of Guelph, is working with epidermal growth factor (EGF), a protein that plays an essential role in healing. EGF is activated when it binds to EGF receptors that are found along the length of the small intestine in many species, including poultry.

“One of the many ways to make a chicken's digestive system more robust without relying on

STARTING WITH THE EGG

As part of Kiarie's work, he has been testing the most effective way and time to deliver EGF to enhance a bird's intestinal tract. First, he had to confirm when EGF receptors appear in a chicken's small intestine so he could take advantage of accessing them as early as possible.

Kiarie administered EGF *in ovo*, directly into the egg, and investigated the presence of EGF receptors at various stages from days 17 to 21. “What we found is that the EGF receptors only appear on day 21 – when chicks hatch. Once we understood that, we realized it would be more effective to apply EGF directly to feed,” Kiarie says.

THE CHALLENGE WITH CHICKENS

The small intestine is lined with villi, tiny hair-like projections that help absorb nutrients.

Rapid growth of the small intestine in the first 10 days of a chick's life is an indication of better gut health. Kiarie says by day seven, a chicken's small intestine typically comprises about 7% of its body weight.

“The challenge with chickens is that they must be able to consume enough nutrients to form their gut in the first 10 days after hatching, and it takes almost three days after hatching for them to access their feed,” says Kiarie. “Our goal is for chickens to develop a more robust small intestine as quickly as possible so they can digest more food.”

EGF IN FEED

They fed groups of chickens diets containing four different concentrations of EGF and compared the results with a control group – one that used antibiotics, and one that did not. All chickens were fed their designated diets and brought to market weight.

“If you improve villi, chickens can express more enzymes, and if they express more enzymes, they should be able to digest more food,” Kiarie says. “The birds receiving EGF had healthier, heavier small intestines – but we saw no other advantages.”

In an unexpected twist, all birds – regardless of diet and the use of antibiotics – consumed the same amount of feed, from day zero to market weight. Kiarie notes that while the birds fed EGF had better intestinal health, all birds in all groups were physically identical.

“We went back to the drawing board, to focus on the first

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antibiotics is to develop the gut quickly,” says Kiarie. “We want young chicks to eat and absorb nutrients as quickly as possible in those first 10 days, so they are stronger and more developed.”



Dr. Elijah Kiarie, who holds the McIntosh Family Professorship in Poultry Nutrition at the University of Guelph

10 days,” Kiarie says. “And we wanted to represent farm conditions.”

BACTERIA BALANCE

Kiarie’s team is now working on a challenge study, to understand the effects of EGF in enhancing gut development and function in broiler chickens when challenged with *Eimeria*, a pathogen leading to *coccidiosis* – a disease that damages the gut setting stage for proliferation of *Clostridium perfringens* that causes necrotic enteritis. Kiarie expects to see chickens that have been fed EGF will heal more quickly than those that have not.

“EGF does not target specific microbiota directly, but the idea is to balance the good bacteria, so

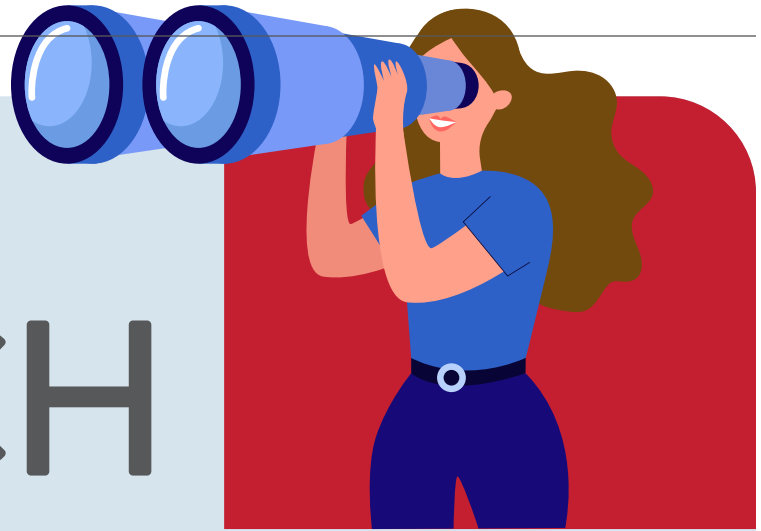
they are the majority, allowing us to minimize the pathogens,” says Kiarie. “What we expect is that EGF will help the bird recover more quickly when it encounters enteric pathogens under normal farm conditions – making chickens more resilient.”

STILL WORK TO DO

After pandemic delays, Kiarie says there’s still work to do before he is close to bringing a solution to market. “We have a vibrant gut health research program, and we will keep working toward new tools to help farmers address challenges,” says Kiarie. “We think if we can use EGF to strengthen the gut, chickens shouldn’t need antibiotics to prevent disease, and we should see better feed efficiency.”

BACKGROUND

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 is provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. ■



HILL WATCH

WELCOME BACK!

PARLIAMENTARIANS, WELCOME BACK TO OTTAWA! CHICKEN FARMERS OF CANADA (CFC) HOPES YOU HAD GREAT SUMMER BREAK IN YOUR RIDINGS. CFC HAS BEEN BUSY OVER THE SUMMER, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME UPDATES WITH YOU.

CHECK OUT WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

FEDERAL PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL AGRICULTURE MINISTERS ROUNDTABLE

CFC welcomed the announcement of the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership following the Federal Provincial Territorial (FPT) Agriculture Ministers meeting in Saskatoon in July. This new Policy Framework creates 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.

Ministers also held a roundtable with farm leaders to discuss the challenges facing Canadian agriculture, as well as the sector's vision for continued growth. CFC will continue dialogue with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on what the new policy means for Canadian chicken farmers.

AVIAN INFLUENZA – UPDATE

Since early 2022, poultry farms across Canada have been affected by a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (AI). With the start of fall and wild bird migration season, farmers are facing another AI wave as cases have picked up in several provinces. At this time, it is imperative that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency continue to support farmers on mitigating the impacts of animal disease.

CFC IN THE COMMUNITY

Canada Summer Games

As the sole sponsor for both Diving and Swimming events during the 2022 Canada Summer Games, CFC was in Niagara this past August to support our athletes and participate in the medaling ceremony. While in town, CFC Chair Tim Klompmaker, and representatives met with local MPs Chris Bittle and Vance Badawey to highlight CFC's dedication to the sport and community.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year, CFC once again sponsored the 7th Annual Francis Drouin Charity Golf Tournament in support of the United Way of Eastern Ontario. Along with being the sponsor of food and beverage at the event, CFC also had a tent set up for participants to stop by, spin the wheel of chicken, learn about our sector, and win!

Left: Canada Summer Games – CFC Chair Tim Klompmaker presents the medals to the winning swimmers and divers.
Right: CFC Golf Tournament - CFC representatives spin the wheel of Chicken.

BILLS CFC IS MONITORING

- » Bill C-234 An Act to amend *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*
- » Bill C-275 An Act to amend the *Health of Animals Act* (biosecurity on farms)
- » Coming up: mark your calendars!

FALL HILL LOBBY DAY – NOVEMBER 15, 2022

- » Fall Reception – November 15, 2022, invitation forthcoming!
- » Annual Hill Lobby Day – May 2023



CGFARAD RECEIVES GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (CgFARAD™) plays an integral part in Canada's animal health and food safety system by providing information on residue avoidance to Canadian veterinarians. In recognition of this important food safety risk mitigation service, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) allocated \$150,000 to support the organization for the 2021–22 fiscal year.



CgFARAD™ is an integral service that ensures food safety for Canadians when veterinary pharmaceuticals are used extra-label in food producing animals. Where licensed products for an animal species or a specific condition are not available, veterinarians are legally permitted to prescribe drugs extra-label for disease indications, or doses or duration of treatments, that differ from approved drug labelling. CgFARAD™ provides veterinarians with unbiased veterinary pharmacological expertise on withdrawal recommendations and undertakes research where insufficient information on withdrawal times exists.

As a result, CgFARAD™ is an essential frontline service which helps to perform critical food safety functions for public health by proactively mitigating the risk of food products with violative veterinary drug residues from entering the food chain.

Industry's active engagement with CgFARAD™ on veterinary drug residue avoidance results in the low level of residue measured by the federal regulatory system and contributes to our national and international consumer trust in Canadian food products.

The number of requests received by CgFARAD™ continues to grow. CgFARAD™ responded to 2,649 withdrawal requests in 2021-2022 (92 more than the previous year), covering a diverse group of 25 livestock and poultry commodities. Broilers are the most common commodity for which CgFARAD requests are made, making up 40% of all requests from May 2021 to April 2022. This level of requests highlights the CFIA mandatory requirement for poultry producers to report antimicrobial use on the Flock Information Reporting Form, and the use of CgFARAD™ as an additional step to ensure food safety.

CgFARAD™'s annual operating costs were previously supported entirely by four stakeholder groups:

- » veterinary associations
- » pharmaceutical companies
- » national livestock and poultry associations
- » feed and processing associations

The funding received from CFIA is greatly appreciated by industry partners, and will be critical to providing CgFARAD™ the means to operate sustainably and achieve their five-year goals which include succession planning for human resources, increased knowledge and technology transfer (KTT), bilingual service, and stakeholder driven research.

Chicken Farmers of Canada has been a financial supporter of CgFARAD™ from its inaugural year, and more recently have been involved on the CgFARAD™ Advisory board via Steve Leech, Director of Food Safety and Animal Health at CFC. ■

SEPTEMBER WAS NATIONAL CHICKEN MONTH!

Canadians have another reason to celebrate their favourite protein – It is National Chicken Month! This year, we focussed on the diversity of chicken and all the wonderful chicken recipes introduced to Canada from great culinary cultures around the world.

National Chicken Month has been celebrated since 2016 and serves to remind Canadians that Canada chicken farmers raise their flocks from coast to coast. And that they work hard to bring us fresh, high-quality chicken, raised by a Canadian farmer, every day.

This year, we challenged all Canadians to show off the versatility of chicken by cooking a chicken dish reminiscent of their cultural background, and to share how chicken is an important part of their heritage.

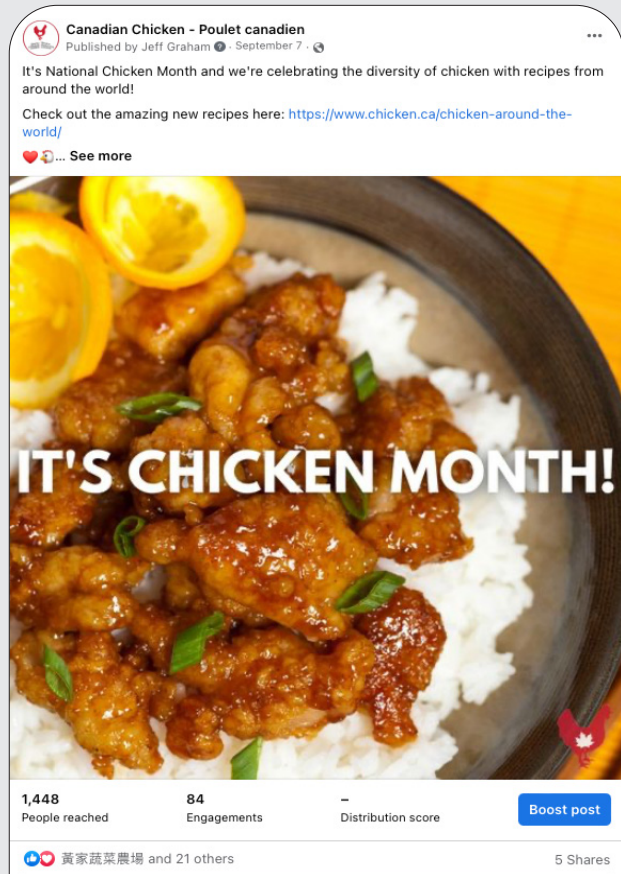
Chicken Farmers of Canada also partnered with the Canadian Culinary Federation through the “Chicken Challenge” to highlight how Canadian chefs interpret their lineage through the chicken dishes they create. Three cash prizes will be awarded in this contest, as well as a matching donation to a food bank of the winning chef’s choice.

We also featured two prominent Canadian chefs, Trevor Lui and Joseph Shawana, who skillfully demonstrate their creativity and culture with chicken cuisine.

Updates and events were held throughout the month and promoted on our social media channels @chickendotca on Instagram, @Canadianchicken on Facebook, and under these hashtags #chickendotca, #nationalchickenmonth, and #canchica22.

The *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* brand is synonymous with origin and quality, and finding great chicken is easier than ever with the *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* logo. Look for it where you buy your chicken and have confidence that your food is being responsibly raised.

Our farmers are consumers, too. They take immense pride in being able to bring Canada’s number one protein to tables from coast to coast, including their own. Thank you for celebrating National Chicken



Month, our way of showing the world that we are committed to doing everything we can to maintain the hard-earned trust of Canadians. ■



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE UPDATE



The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) hosted its General Managers meeting from September 12-13 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

The meeting brings together the GMs of CFA's membership annually to discuss CFA's activities and operations and also for members to share the current priority issues of their own organizations.

The agenda included:

- » Reports on past meetings
- » Staffing and financial updates
- » Cost of Production Roundtable
- » Policy updates
- » Grocery Code of Conduct
- » Communications update

CFA AT WTO FORUM

Like Chicken Farmers of Canada, CFA representatives were part of the recent World Trade Organization (WTO) public forum held in Geneva Switzerland Sept 27-30. CFA's Keith Currie a presenter during the session: *Food Security: What Trade Policies Balance Domestic Food Supply and Demand in Times of Crisis?*

During this session, panellists discussed various approaches to mitigate food insecurity and which trade policies would help balance domestic food supply and demand to improve food security in times of present and future crises.

At the Forum, CFA representatives also had the opportunity to meet with officials including Canada's newly appointed Ambassador and Agriculture Attaché, Nadia Theodore, WTO Deputy Director General, Jean-Marie Paugam and the WTO Agriculture and Commodities Division chair.

COMMITTEE APPEARANCES

CFA Executive Director Scott Ross has appeared before numerous Parliamentary committees recently to discuss issues impacting Canadian farmers. This included:

- » House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food on study on global food insecurity. Scott spoke to the need for balanced trade that supports domestic resilience, effective disaster reviews to promote mitigation and prevent, the need to invest in strategic trade corridors, and the importance of labour.
- » House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food as co-chairs of the Agriculture Carbon Alliance to speak to Bill C-234, *An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* ■

