



# Native Agri Update

No. 399 April 2023

## FARM & FAMILY SAFETY

*sources: www.casa.acsa.ca, www.wsp.ca*

With spring here, the quieter days of winter will soon be replaced with hustle and bustle of spring. With the warm weather comes field work and planting, putting livestock to pasture, and a host of other activities. While we are all looking forward to getting out on the land, it's important to pause and think about safety of those working on the farm, as well as family, particularly children.



Often farms are viewed as adventure areas by children and without adequate safeguards and precautions, farms can be very dangerous. Here are some tips to keep kids safe on the farm

- Create a safe play area away from farm activities. Never let kids play in areas around farm equipment or machinery and livestock.
- Check the work area for children before starting any equipment. Do not operate equipment until kids are securely away.
- Always lock vehicles and machinery when you're finished using them. Remove the keys and keep them out of reach of kids.
- Equipment or materials that may fall should always be left in the down position.
- Kids should never be passengers or extra riders on ride-on mowers, tractors, ATVs, work wagons, truck beds or any other type of farm equipment.
- Remember to safely guard children from other dangerous areas of the farm in-



cluding grain, livestock, ponds and open water, hazardous materials - pesticides, fuel, sharp steel for example.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

IAPO's Annual General Meeting is planned for Monday May 15, 2023 at the All Saints Church, 1265 Ridge Rd. Tyendinaga.

All members in good standing are welcome to attend the upcoming annual meeting. For those attending in person, dinner will be served at 6 p.m. For those who can't attend in person, a meeting link will be sent out to join in via video-link. All attendees must register no later than May 10, 2023. To register contact: 1-800-363-0329 or [info@indianag.on.ca](mailto:info@indianag.on.ca)

## IAPO IS HIRING!

Due to some upcoming changes, IAPO is looking for new team members.

### Loans Administrator - Stirling

Working from our Stirling office, IAPO is looking for a Loans Administrator on a contract basis until May 2024.

The Loans Administrator is responsible for day to day loan transactions, banking and office administration. This position requires someone experienced in administration, book keeping, financing or a similarly related position.

If you would like the career posting for the Loans Administrator, please email: [info@indianag.on.ca](mailto:info@indianag.on.ca)

### General Manager

Working from either IAPO's Stirling or Lambeth office, IAPO is seeking a multi-skilled General Manager to lead a small team in the delivery of IAPO's financing and services. Ideal candidates will have experience working with First Nation communities and businesses, & a solid understanding of farming and finance.

If you would like the career posting for this position, please email:

[info@indianag.on.ca](mailto:info@indianag.on.ca)

[www.indianag.on.ca](http://www.indianag.on.ca)

## Inside

Agribusiness	
Page .....	2
Market Information	
Page .....	3
Calendar of Events	
Page .....	3
Livestock Information	
Page .....	4
Crop Information	
Page .....	5
Other News	
Page .....	6

## Contributors

**Brian Bell - BB**

Farm Advisor

[brian@indianaq.on.ca](mailto:brian@indianaq.on.ca)

**Camden Lawrence - CL**

Business Advisor

[camden@indianaq.on.ca](mailto:camden@indianaq.on.ca)

**Jamie Hall - JH**

General Manager

[jamie@indianaq.on.ca](mailto:jamie@indianaq.on.ca)

**Jackie Stott - JS FNWE**

Business Coach

[jacklyn@indianag.on.ca](mailto:jacklyn@indianag.on.ca)

**Steven Hughes - SH**

Farm Management Advisor

[steven@indianaq.on.ca](mailto:steven@indianaq.on.ca)

**IAPO Box 100**

**Stirling, ON K0K 3E0**

**1-800-363-0329**

**[info@indianag.on.ca](mailto:info@indianag.on.ca)**

JH

# Agribusiness

## WHOLESALE IN AGRICULTURE

By: [Lindsay Kelly](https://www.northernontariobusiness.com) Wholesaling in agriculture: 'You're selling yourself and your product' <https://www.northernontariobusiness.com>

Jeff Burke found that personal relationships helped smooth the way for his entry into wholesaling. His operation, Brule Creek Farms, located 40 kilometres west of Thunder Bay, produces fall rye, wheat, oats and canola on 400 acres. The rye and wheat are milled into flour, while the canola is pressed into oil. Since 2010, Brule Creek has also produced a line of value-added baking mixes, including pancakes, muffins, scones, pizza dough, cookies and cupcakes.

Burke cautioned producers that entering the wholesale market is a bit of a learning curve, especially for someone like him who didn't have a background in food production.

"The first couple of stores that I approached, they were asking about what kind of markup, and what's your suggested retail, and I had no idea how to really figure that out," said Burke, who trained in biology and environmental sciences at Lakehead University. "I had no idea of how to figure out my cost of production, but then I didn't really understand the business model of some of these wholesalers." Burke wasn't deterred, however, eventually learning how to price his products competitively.

In his personal relationships with clients, flexibility has proven an invaluable skill that's come in handy when challenges arise. There have been scenarios over the years in which he turned a "no" into a "yes" simply by listening to the client's needs and working with them to fine-tune a product to something more tailored to their clientele. "These relationships are a lot of back-and-forth," he said.

At Three Forks Farms in Gore Bay, Peggy Baillie and her husband Eric Blondin produce organic vegetables, pasture-raised chicken, and seeds on the west end of Manitoulin Island.

They, too, employ a mix of retail and direct-to-consumer sales, with the veggies and seeds also sold via wholesale, primarily to grocery stores, restaurants and caterers. Producing vegetables profitably can be a tricky business because of their seasonality, Baillie said, but moving to a wholesale model has actually helped increase their sales in other areas.

"What we found is that if we get our stuff in grocery stores, we get more brand recognition and it actually drives more people to our markets overall and our direct-to-consumer sales, which has really been beneficial for us both ways," she said.

Baillie advised producers considering wholesale to familiarize themselves with their cost of production versus profit margins before making the leap, since the move has to be profitable in order for it to be worth their time and effort. She also warned against betting on just one wholesale client,

something she and Blondin learned through experience. One year, two of the farm's largest clients decided they weren't selling local products anymore, but hadn't notified the producers. Baillie and Blondin had to respond quickly in order to avoid a major loss.

## AAFC PROGRAMS

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have just announced new programming through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership. Applications will be accepted from March 6, 2023 until September 30, 2027.

### AgriDiversity Program

According to AAFC, the program is put in place to help underrepresented groups to participate in the Ag sector. It will work with Indigenous communities to increase their involvement in the sector thereby supporting the Government of Canada's commitment to reconciliation and inclusive economic growth.

The program aims to strengthen and build capacity on by:

- Helping develop leadership skills to take on a greater leadership role
- Building the entrepreneurial capacity and business skills in the agri-food sector
- Facilitating the sharing of industry experience, best practices and knowledge to manage transformation and adapt to changes in their business

The maximum AAFC contribution towards a project will normally not exceed \$200,000 per year or a maximum of \$1 million over 5 years.

Contributions toward eligible costs will normally be shared between by AAFC to a maximum of 70%. Applicant cost share can be a combination of both cash contributions and in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions can only account for a maximum of 25% of total eligible costs to complete the project.

Program Link: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/agridiversity>

### AgriAssurance Program

According to AAFC, the program aims to:

- Increase and diversify exports to markets where Canada has Free Trade Agreements are in place
- Support industry to develop, verify and integrate assurance systems to address market and regulatory requirements

The maximum Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) contribution toward a project will normally not exceed \$50,000. If you have multiple projects funded under this component, the total of all projects cannot exceed \$100,000.

Contributions toward eligible costs will normally be shared between AAFC to a maximum of 50%. Applicant cost share must be cash contributions. Program Link: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/agriassurance-small-medium-sized-enterprises-component>

CL

# Market Information

## BEEF MARKET WATCH

Prices are courtesy of the Beef Farmers of Ontario Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending Friday, April 14, 2023. Changes in this chart reflect the difference in prices from the week of February 13th, 2023 to the week of April 10th, 2023. Weekly reports provide prices on a per cwt basis for the week but do not include Friday sale results.

Larger receipts of 517 fed steers and heifers sold through auction markets this week up 209 head from the previous week and 88 more than the same time last year. Fed steers ranged from \$207.84-\$226.85 averaging \$219.25 up \$6.74 from last week and \$48.59 stronger than year ago prices. Fed heifers sold from \$200.24-\$222.29 averaging \$214.05 cwt up \$2.87 from the previous week and \$44.58 stronger than this time last year. Auction markets reported trade as active with prices anywhere from fully steady to \$3.00-\$7.00 cwt higher.

The Ontario railgrade market was been fairly quiet this week with limited trade reported. The few deals reported this week by producers were noted at \$365.00 dressed for steers and \$364.00 cwt for heifers up \$5.00 from the previous week on average.

1,994 fed/cull cows sold through auction markets this week up 112 head from the previous week and 159 more than the same time last year. Cows ranged from \$97.43-

\$134.97 averaging \$112.91 up \$2.95 cwt from the previous week and \$18.01 stronger than this time last year.

Category	Price Range \$	Ave Price	Top Price	Change
Rail Steers	365			
Fed steers	208-226	219	237	+10.6
Fed heifers	207-224	217	231	+13
Cows	97-135	113	188	+10.8
Bulls	135-165	151	186	+11
Stocker steers				
700 – 799	228-278	256	335	-1
600 – 699	246-307	278	337	-1.1
500 – 599	242-324	289	370	-1.4
Stocker heifers				
700 – 799	206-245	228	245	+5.6
600 – 699	209-260	238	292	+3.5
500 – 599	219-275	249	301	+5.5

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

**BB**

## CROP MARKET

Adapted from Market Trends Special Report USDA April 2, 2023 by Phillip Shaw GFO [www.gfo.ca](http://www.gfo.ca)

**Corn** Corn prices are still very strong historically, despite recent softening of futures values. The USDA report with their 4% rise in corn acres might be hard to be fulfilled based on the cold snow packed acres still in the US northern plains. The weather will have to change quickly for corn acres to have their place there. Of course, what doesn't get planted into corn will most likely go into soybeans. It's all part of a moving target as we look ahead.

With the USDA report in the rear-view mirror, much of the focus going forward will be on US planting pace and the Brazil Safrinha corn crop and associated weather.

Seasonally, corn prices tend to peak in early June and bottom out in early October. The new crop futures contract is currently in the 55th percentile of the past five-year price distribution range.

**Soybeans** With the March soybean stocks being the lowest in six years and on the lower side of pre report esti-

mates, it was a welcome commentary on demand for US soybeans. Prices rocketed upward on report day, and this should be telling going forward with regard to any incentive to switch over from corn to soybeans. Needless to say, Brazil has a record crop of soybeans which are being distributed throughout the world grain pipeline. Argentina will be importing some soybeans from Brazil this year to take the place of beans which were lost during their devastating drought.

Seasonally, soybean prices tend to peak in early July and bottom in early October. The new crop futures contract is currently in the 66th percentile of the past five-year price distribution range.

**Wheat** Wheat is at very low prices despite the fact that US and world wheat supplies are historically tight. That said, it is oversold as of April 1st. Keep in mind that Russia has been selling wheat at fire sale prices in the Black Sea region.

In Ontario, the 1.3 million acres of wheat is coming out of dormancy and generally speaking it looks good. A large amount of this crop will have to be exported as Ontario does not have the capacity to process all of this wheat. Prices are decent even though they are far below last year's level caused by the spike from the Ukraine Russia war. It is improbable and unlikely that that price will happen again so conveniently for Ontario farmers. .

## Coming Events

- May 10** **Agricorp Reporting Deadline** - New crop insurance applications, or changes to existing coverage. 1-888-247-4999 or contact - [@agricorp.com](mailto:@agricorp.com)
- May 15** **IAPO Annual General Meeting** at the All Saints Church, 1265 Ridge Rd. Tyendinaga. Dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the AGM at 7 p.m. All attendees must register no later than May 10, 2023. To register contact: 1-800-363-0329 or [info@indianag.on.ca](mailto:info@indianag.on.ca)



# Livestock Information

## MORE ON LAYING HENS

This is the third article of three about managing your layer flock. This one is in the form of common questions and answers, summarizing key management points and tips for your layer birds. Best of luck with your egg production!

1) **When will my hens start to lay eggs?** Hens on an average start to lay around 5-6 months of age, more or less. However, factors such as time of year, temperature, breed type etc. can affect this.

2) **Why aren't my chickens laying?** They might be too young, they might be too old, if they look sick, an illness may have caused them to stop laying, and cold weather slows down egg production.

3) **How do I troubleshoot when I have problems?** Remember the acronym FLAWSS. Evaluate the following: Feed, Lighting, Air, Water, Space and Sanitation.

4) **What do I need when my chicks arrive?** You need a way to keep your chicks warm without cooking them. Depending on the number of chicks and your budget there are several options. Most commonly used is a single lamp infrared brooder with a 250-watt red glass infrared bulb. You will also need a perimeter to contain the chicks inside the heated area — something as simple as an 18" high corrugated paper chick corral will get the job done. Place a small thermometer inside to ensure the correct temperature of 95° F is maintained. Drop this by 5° each week thereafter by raising the heat lamp. A proper chick feeder and waterer is also necessary and you should provide ample space for the number of chicks inside. Pine shavings will work well as bedding.

5) **What is the best way to introduce new chickens to an already established flock?** Separate newcomers and established birds with a barrier (i.e., wire), so they can see each other but not directly interact for a period of 2-4 weeks. This will help keep fighting to a minimum. Always introduce them while supervised to control any fighting.

6) **How do I get my chickens to go in the coop at night?** Chickens instinctively move into their coop when the sun goes down. It may take a little coaxing for grown chickens to move into a newly built coop but once they realize it's home, they generally go right in at night. Your job is to close the door behind them once they enter, and then to open it back up in the morning. If this sounds like something you don't care to constantly deal with, you can buy an automatic chicken coop door.

7) **What should I feed my chickens?** Starter ration until they are 6-8 weeks old, grower ration until they are 18 -20 weeks old, then layer ration from 20 weeks on. It is a good idea to supplement the layer ration with ground oyster shell. Oyster shell helps keep eggshells thick. The following chart summarizes the feed type and estimated intake over their growth periods.

FEED	PROTEIN LEVEL %	AGE OF BIRDS	FEED INTAKE *
Starter	20-22%	0-6 weeks	20-29 lb.
Pullet Grower	14-16%	6-20 weeks	120-130 lb.
Layer	15-18%	20 weeks on	18-24 lb./week

\*per 10 birds per age period

8) **How many nesting boxes?** Generally, one box for every 4 -5 hens. For larger breeds, a box 12" high, 12" deep and 14" high is fine. They should be located 18" to 24" above the ground.

9) **Why is it important for a coop to have proper ventilation?** Ventilation removes dampness and humidity and ammonia fumes from the coop and usually helps keep the coop from getting too hot in summer. Chickens' bodies perform best below about 75 degrees F; over 90 F they start to have problems. How much to ventilate: The general rule of thumb is to have 1/5th of your coop walls be windows or vents. The lower windows can be left open in the summer and then closed in the colder months, leaving only vents up high open. If the climate is very wet or the coop is crowded, then more than the recommended amount of ventilation will be needed. A fan may be necessary to provide an adequate flow of fresh air. A fan that can supply 5 cubic feet per minute per chicken in the coop will usually provide adequate ventilation.

10) **How big does my chicken coop need to be?** Because chickens spend most of their active time outside of the chicken coop, generally 2 – 3 square feet per chicken is sufficient space. Remember, you will need to provide space to roost at night and space for the nesting boxes. If you plan on keeping them cooped up full-time then 8 – 10 square feet per chicken is recommended, counting the outside run.

11) **How do I successfully pasture my layer birds?** The first priority of raising pastured poultry is providing the chickens with fresh pasture every day or every few days. A feature of a pastured poultry operation is a building and/or pasture design that moves easily and allows the chickens to graze and benefit from fresh pasture (these designs are sometimes called "chicken tractors"). A "chicken tractor" is simply a term used to describe any type of mobile poultry housing that allows birds access to pasture. This type of housing permits the chickens to work the soil by scratching and pecking, controlling weeds and insects, and, at the same time, supplying natural fertilizer with their manure. Pastured poultry get many vital nutrients from grazing weeds, weed seeds, legumes, grasses and bugs. But, there is some debate as to how much pasture-based nutrition the birds can actually digest. Unlike ruminants, chickens lack a multi stomachs and cannot digest fibre effectively. Therefore, chickens cannot live on pasture alone. Even if layers consume up to 50% less feed when they are moved out to pasture, you will still need to provide a balanced grain diet to the hens on pasture. This amounts to a minimum of 70 grams per layer per day while on pasture.

BB

# Crop Information

## SPRING ASSESSMENT OF HAY FIELDS.

Once a hay field breaks dormancy in the spring, it is a good practice to scout the field to determine how well the field overwintered and to get a handle on the yield potential of the hay field. As noted in the recently released *Ontario Guide to Forage Production*, harvest is the most expensive part of growing a hay crop. Essentially, there is very little difference in the cost per acre to harvest a low-yielding hay crop versus a high-yielding hay crop. Once you figure in the costs of cutting, raking, and harvesting (either a forage harvester or baler) on a per acre basis, it is cheaper to grow a high-yielding hay crop because your cost per tonne of forage will be lower. When the yield potential of the field becomes less than 75%, it becomes too expensive to keep harvesting the low-yielding hay crop.

Alfalfa stand assessments should be conducted in the spring soon after the crop has broken dormancy (started to green up) to provide a good expectation of the yield potential of the field, the amount of winter kill that might have occurred, as well as provide an opportunity to make management decisions about the field.

### Plant Stand Assessments

The table below comes from the *Guide to Forage Production*, and highlights the number of healthy plants that is required to be considered a viable stand. The target number of healthy plants on an area basis varies with the age of the stand, as alfalfa stands tend to thin over time. As the stand ages, alfalfa plants can compensate for fewer plants because they have larger crowns that can send up more shoots. Using the table below, if the stand is a pure stand of alfalfa, the number of alfalfa plants should be at the high end of the range. If it is a mixed stand with grasses, the lower end of the counts is acceptable.

Age of Stand	Healthy Plants
New seeding	215+ plants/m <sup>2</sup> (20+ plants/ft <sup>2</sup> )
Year 1	129-215 plants/m <sup>2</sup> (12-20 plants/ft <sup>2</sup> )
Year 2	86-129 plants/m <sup>2</sup> (8-12 plants/ft <sup>2</sup> )
Year 3 or older	54 plants/m <sup>2</sup> (5 plants/ft <sup>2</sup> )

In the following picture on the left is an example of a strong alfalfa field. There is over a dozen alfalfa plants per square foot and very little bare ground, estimated less than 25%. Other than the one dandelion poking through, there is little weed competition in this section of the field as well.

In the following picture on the right we see a weaker part of the field. There are less than 5 alfalfa plants, several grasses, and a lot of bare ground with some shepherd's purse developing. If the majority of the field was like this image, remedial

action should be taken as more than 50% of this image is either bare ground or weeds.



### Determining the Health of the Alfalfa Plant

A healthy alfalfa plant is one that has not heaved from the soil, exposing the crown to drying winds or the potential to be cut with a haybine. Also, dig up some plants and cut the roots open to ensure good plant health. If the inside of the root is white or cream-coloured and firm like a potato, then the plant is in good health. Plants that have roots where the inside is yellow or brown, ropery or stringy, or smell like rot are not healthy, and are not likely to survive.

### Improving Hay Stands

In the situation where an alfalfa stand is thinning out to the point where it is no longer economically viable there can be several options. Killing-off the stand either by ploughing and and/or with herbicides, and growing another crop may be a viable option. If maintaining the hay field is a must, other options would include “sprucing-up” the stand with grasses or another legume species. Alfalfa is autotoxic, which means that it gives off chemicals into the soil that hinder new alfalfa plants from growing. Reseeding alfalfa into an existing alfalfa stand is rarely an option. But adding other legume crops such as clover or trefoil can work to maintain or boost the protein content of your hay sample. Adding grass species to the hay field can also work at improving a hay field. Adding a grass such as Italian Ryegrass can increase yield and provide a palatable haylage or baleage, though can be challenging to make dry hay with. Other grass species can offer more yield in the summer growth and work better for making dry hay.

If the decision has been made to keep a hay stand that requires improvement, there are a couple of options for applying the seed. Frost seeding can be a method that works if you have the right conditions. Another option would be no-till drilling seed into the field with a drill capable of planting grass seed. This can be time sensitive as you do not want to do much damage to the crowns and stems of the existing alfalfa plants, so earlier is better.

When taking stock of your hay stand, work with the best tools and knowledge that you have. A shovel and a tape measure or yard stick will help you get a feel for the health of your hay field and try to scout early. The more time you have to act will help maximizing the yield out of your hay stand. If you need help in assessing your hay field or pasture, do not hesitate to contact your local IAPO representative for assistance.

SH

# Other News

## WOMEN IN FARMING - GROWING IN NUMBERS

Women, whether born on farms into a farming lifestyle or have discovered farming on their own, are growing in numbers across the country.

In 2021, 30.4% of Canada's farm operators were female, up from 28.6% in 2016. This isn't the first time that the proportion of female farm operators has increased between census periods. In fact, there have been several increases in the proportion in female farm operators over the previous seven census periods. (Stats Can)

In 2021, almost 17,000 female farm operators reported managing one-operator farms in Canada, an increase of 26.5% from 2016. (Stats Can)

First Nations women are even more likely to choose farming as a career according to Stats Can. In 2016, First Nations women made up 36.8% of First Nations agricultural operators compared to the 28.6% of non-aboriginal agricultural operators.

Why are First Nations women choosing farming? Some of the reasons include tradition, food sovereignty, healthier foods, income & self-sufficiency, building a business to pass down to future generations, the environment, and to help their communities, to name a few.

With more and more women entering agricultural type businesses, there are financial and business supports available to help.

IAPO, has 2 specific programs that are perfect for women trying to start their farming career.



The First Nations Women's Entrepreneurship (FNWE) program is a microloan and grant program for First Nations women entrepreneurs, that comes with business coaching and workshops to

help offer valuable training and assistance to women wanting to start or expand a business. FNWE program offers financing for farm projects up to \$15,000. FNWE can be used for farm start up costs or expansions. The financing comes with a 31% grant and offers no payments for the first year at 6% interest. The loan is repayable over 5 years with no penalties for early repayment.

The Beginning Farmer Program (BFP) is a multiyear program designed to support new beginning First Nations farmers between the ages of 16 and 40 through all stage of farm business startup. BFP supports the creation, development and investment in the new farm businesses. The program offers workshops and training along with up to \$50,000 in start-up financing and grants.

For more information on FNWE or farming, contact Jackie Stott, FNWE Business Coach - jacklyn@indianag.on.ca or 1800 363 3888

JS

## SQUASH AND CUCUMBERS

*Adapted from Hort Matters Vol 11 Issue 15, June 2011—Elaine Roddy*

If you plant it, they will come. Cucumber beetles seem to be able to sense a newly emerged cucurbit (squash, cucumber, pumpkins & melons) planting as soon as it breaks through the ground. Cucumber beetles with their characteristic yellow and brown stripping can do extensive damage to squash, cucumber and all other vine crops. While damage from feeding is often minor, the biggest risk of damage comes from the ability of the feeding beetles to spread bacterial wilt disease.

To avoid damage be on the watch:



- Scout plantings as soon as seedlings plants emerge.
- Plan on scouting in the morning when beetles are most active.
- Monitor regularly as beetles often emerge in flushes.

### Thresholds

The threshold for control is 0.5 to 1 beetle per plant. Inspect at least 100 plants across the field to get a good idea of the overall population. If you find more than the threshold, act to reduce beetle numbers.

### Control & Treatment

In addition good farming practices like rotating your fields or plantings, consider row covers to keep beetles off the plants. This is a good early season problems but remember, you'll need to remove the row covers to let bees get to the plants once they start flowering.. Another option is kaolin clay (Surround) which may be applied to the foliage as beetle deterrent.

For smaller plantings, satisfactory control can be accomplished by picking and destroying beetles.

Insecticides, such as Imidacloprid (Admire, Grapple) can be applied as an at-planting treatment, either in the seed furrow or in the transplant water. It can also be applied immediately after planting as an over-the-row drench. These methods of application typically provide 4 - 6 weeks of cucumber beetle control.

## EARLTON FARM SHOW



The warm weather brought out the crowds at the Earlton Farm Show held April 14 & 15. This was the first show since the pandemic and IAPO's first time as an exhibitor. Camden Lawrence (right) and Brian Bell of IAPO had a chance to connect with farmers and other agri businesses from the region.. Based on the crowds and interest in IAPO, we'll be back next year!

JH



# Avian Influenza



## Background:

Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 is a form of Bird Flu which is a highly contagious viral disease which occurs primarily in poultry and wild birds and shore birds.

## Recognizing HPAI

No specific signs— pay attention to **CONTEXT!**



## Assessing the Risk of infection:

- Are migratory waterfowl present?
- Is there a flock confirmed with HPAI near by?
- How close is the nearest poultry farm?
- Do farm employees have contact with other poultry?
- Do birds from this flock have access to outdoors?
- How close is the nearest pond to the barn?
- Does anyone on the farm have contact with wild waterfowl?
- Do wild birds enter the barn and eat from feeders?
- Who has access to the farm?
- What pest control measures are in place?
- Are bedding materials stored in a way that prevents contamination?

## Why HPAI is a risk:

### Economic:

- High death rate especially turkeys and chickens.
- Rapid spread between farms/ flocks if strict biosecurity is not in place.
- Serious production loss, loss of income

### Food:

- Not a food safety risk

### Human:

- Low risk to general public but can spread to humans in direct contact with live birds.

### Other:

- Migratory birds increase risk during spring/fall global migrations.
- Pigs are susceptible to AI viruses.



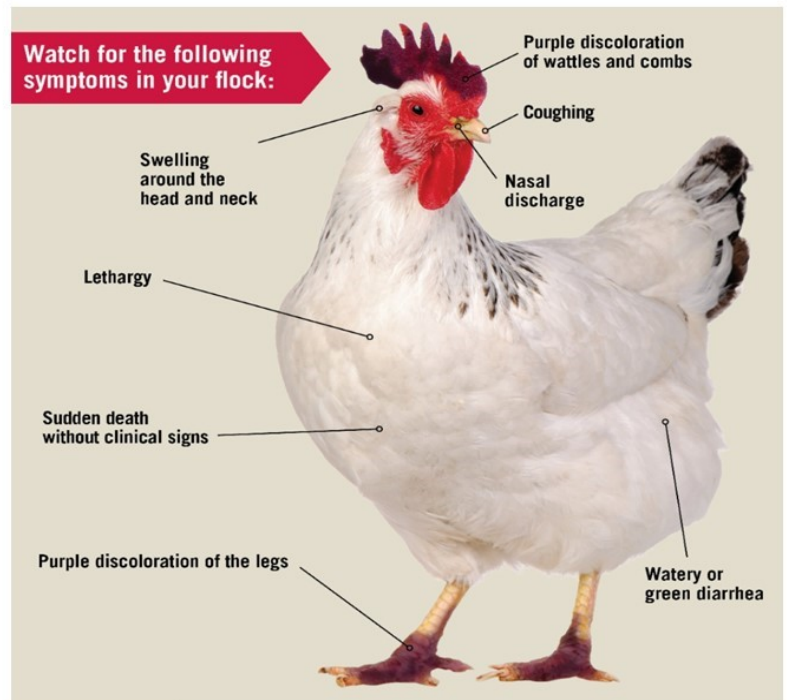
# IAPO

First Nations Farm & Business Financing

## Clinical Signs of HPAI

Some or all of the following clinical signs are evident in infected birds:

- high and sudden death rate
- quietness and extreme depression
- a drop in production of eggs, many of which are soft-shelled or shell-less
- diarrhea
- haemorrhages on the hock
- swelling of the skin under the eyes
- wattles and combs become swollen and congested



## What can you do?

- ☐ Keep poultry away from areas frequented by wild birds.
- ☐ Make sure equipment is cleaned and disinfected before taking it into poultry houses.
- ☐ Do not keep bird feeders or create duck ponds close to poultry barns.
- ☐ Maintain the highest sanitation standards.
- ☐ Change footwear when entering the Restricted Area and prevent wearing contaminated clothing and equipment in production areas.
- ☐ Keep mortalities in secure, covered containers until they are moved to the disposal area or transported off-farm.
- ☐ Place waste entering the public collection system in a sealed, waterproof bag with the exterior disinfected.
- ☐ Wash and disinfect vehicles at entry and at exit, paying special attention to wheels and wheel wells.
- ☐ **IMPORTANT: Limit access to your farm to essential visitors only. Avoid going to other chicken farms.**

## If you suspect HPAI, from clinical signs and/or the high risk context:

Contact your local Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) or call the CFIA 24/7 hotline:

**1(877) 814 - 2342**

If you spot a sick or dead wild bird is contact the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC # 1-866-673- 4781)

→ **DO NOT TOUCH**

### Sources:

<https://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/downloads/avian-influenza-cfia-dr-cynthia-philippe.pdf>

[https://www.ontariochicken.ca/getattachment/1a50cc54-4ba5-4c87-8abf-713cd2c2b2c4/attachment.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1SVIlgYNEcBv-AozzcbH5k\\_fbkGjJ5U3R0GAUccGtwj\\_\\_tV1khC53OUg](https://www.ontariochicken.ca/getattachment/1a50cc54-4ba5-4c87-8abf-713cd2c2b2c4/attachment.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1SVIlgYNEcBv-AozzcbH5k_fbkGjJ5U3R0GAUccGtwj__tV1khC53OUg)

<https://extension.uga.edu/topic-areas/animal-production/poultry-eggs/avian-flu.html>