



ONTARIO'S POULTRY INDUSTRY WELCOMES FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Toronto, ON, November 10, 2011 – Ontario's poultry industry welcomes the support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to augment its existing emergency planning and rapid response system to ensure the industry can mobilize quickly in the event of a poultry disease outbreak in Ontario. The government's \$123,713 commitment is being provided through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP), administered regionally by the Agricultural Adaptation Council in Ontario, and was announced at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair on Thursday, November 10.

The project is spearheaded by Chicken Farmers of Ontario on behalf of Ontario's poultry industry organizations which collaborate through the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC). The other members of the FBCC are Egg Farmers of Ontario, Turkey Farmers of Ontario and Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg & Chick Commission.

Led by the newly formed FBCC Board, the goal is to provide an identified point of decision-making and prepare an emergency response protocol. This project will facilitate a timely and streamlined approach between all industry partners and government in the event of a disease threat or outbreak. This system will be equally valuable in other urgent situations the poultry industry may face.

"Ontario is Canada's largest poultry producer. With approximately 2,000 poultry farms across the province and many partners across the poultry value chain in Ontario, the need for a consistent, agreed approach to address urgent situations is essential," commented Murray Booy, Chair of Chicken Farmers of Ontario. "Government of Canada funding for this project recognizes that imperative."

Speaking at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair shortly after the announcement, Henry Zantingh, First Vice Chair of Chicken Farmers of Ontario, said: "We firmly believe that formalizing an actionable emergency management plan will ensure consistent and timely responses that minimize loss and disruption and protect poultry flocks, the poultry industry as well as the general public. What's more, this program will reinforce the importance of adopting disease prevention and control practices across Ontario's agricultural industry."

FBCC will collaborate with Équipe Québécoise de Contrôle des Maladies Avicoles (EQCMA) which is also developing an emergency management planning system for Quebec. As part of this partnership, FBCC and EQCMA will share documentation, protocols and agreements to ensure consistency and collaboration in the management and movement of poultry between the two provinces. Ontario, in turn, will ensure its emergency response plan is available to other provinces.

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