



Farm Advisor

Your timely source for farm business information

Coming this fall

CFO Regional Meetings

Who: Ontario chicken farmers

What: CFO is introducing a regional meeting format for the September meetings. This means instead of holding 9 district meetings around the province, there will be 4 farmer-only meetings that will run through the day – lunch included!

Why: We'd like to provide more value at these meetings by going into more depth on important topics, inviting guest speakers to offer specific expertise relevant to your farm operation and increase overall attendance.

Where and When:

September 28	Belleville
September 30	Elora
October 5	Ancaster
October 7	Stratford

**Stay tuned...invitations
and agenda coming soon.**

Ontario industry working to improve worker safety protocols for catching and loading chickens

There's no question that farm safety continues to be a focus for the industry and over the last two years CFO has been working with industry partners to develop a standard of safety for catching and loading on all farms. Many factors contribute to ensuring worker safety during the catching and loading process. The Farm Standards document covers many of these areas but one of the primary drivers addresses the concern around falls from heights and the protocols needed to prevent falls.

These guidelines will impact the catching and loading process on all farms regardless of barn type (1, 2 or multistory barns). For example, if catching and loading chickens from the 2nd floor, the loading platform must be equipped with railings on either side.

The Farm Standards guidelines are meant to help improve safety conditions for workers during the catching and loading of chickens. We encourage you to attend Regional Meetings this fall as

Farm Standards will be discussed in detail and you will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the guidelines.

Once the Farm Standards document is finalized it will be distributed to all farmers. In the meantime, should you have questions please contact John Neil, Farm Audit Supervisor at john.neil@ontariochicken.ca.

Farm Standards was developed as a collaborative effort between CFO, the Association of Ontario Chicken Processors (AOCP), the Poultry Service Association (PSA) and the chicken Transporters in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Ministry of Labour.

CFO introduces Animal Care

Program supported by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

We are pleased to announce that beginning in January 2010, Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) will begin implementing the Animal Care Program (ACP). The Animal Care Program gives Ontario's chicken farmers the opportunity to demonstrate the level of care they show to chickens on the farm and the consideration they give to providing optimal conditions for the health and well being of their chickens. Consumer interest in animal production continues to grow and the Animal Care Program is yet another opportunity to ensure consumers can be confident in the farming practices used by Ontario chicken farmers.

The ACP was developed by Chicken Farmers of Canada and is designed to complement the On Farm Food Safety Assurance Program (OFFSAP). The ACP covers all areas of chicken production on the farm from a welfare perspective just as OFFSAP speaks to food safety. Focus areas of the ACP include stocking density, air quality and water supply.

The Animal Care Program will be phased-in over 3 years starting in January 2010. Audits for the ACP will be conducted at the same time as the OFFSAP audits – no additional audits will be performed. Full and Partial audits will review the on-farm components of the ACP while the Records Assessment and Self-Declaration audits will focus on the record keeping elements of the program.

To learn more about the ACP and to ensure a smooth transition, we encourage you to attend one of the four upcoming Regional Meetings as the ACP will be discussed further by CFO Board Directors and CFO's Service & Inspection Representatives.

Calling all chicken farmers We need your help

CFO will attend the Western Fair and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and we are looking for chicken farmers to join us because who is better to share the good news about chicken farming than an Ontario chicken farmer?

As consumers become more interested in where their food is coming from, it is important that we use these opportunities to tell consumers about your commitment to on-farm food safety and animal welfare.

There's no question that this information is best shared by you – the chicken experts.

All farmers who volunteer will receive a CFO golf shirt as a thank you. For more information and to sign up please contact Megan McCune, Communications Coordinator at **289-288-4206** or megan.mccune@ontariochicken.ca.

Dates:

September 11-20, 2009	Western Fair (London)
November 6-15, 2009	Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (Toronto)

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