

## **FBCC Announces Project Manager/Incident Commander**

*Dr. Tom Baker assumes position effective January 23, 2012*

Ingrid DeVisser, Chair of the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC), is pleased to announce that Dr. Tom Baker has been selected to head up Ontario poultry farmers' emergency management activities. The FBCC is comprised of Chicken Farmers of Ontario, Egg Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg and Chicken Commission and Turkey Farmers of Ontario.

Working under the direction of the recently established FBCC Board, Dr. Baker will develop coordinated disease outbreak response procedures that will be in place by Nov. 2013. He will be responsible for planning and operational support to emergency management as well as aligning value chain plans with government protocols. He will enact the emergency operations center (EOC) and act as Incident Commander to the FBCC during times of crisis.

In November, 2011, the federal government, through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP), provided funding for emergency planning and rapid response/recovery capacity for poultry disease outbreaks in Ontario. All four feather boards in the FBCC have contributed to the project.

FBCC Board Chair, Ingrid DeVisser said, "Filling this critical position with such an experienced and talented individual as Dr. Baker is another big step forward in ensuring Ontario has in place a comprehensive and practical emergency management plan to minimize economic loss and to protect poultry flocks as well as the general public in the face of serious disease outbreaks. In addition, this will augment the significant progress farmers have already made in adopting disease prevention and control practices."

### ***Tom Baker biographical information:***

Dr. Baker recently retired from a 26-year career in the federal and provincial public service, where he held positions at the Director level in animal health and food safety regulatory programs and emergency response. Since then he has been engaged in supporting industry biosecurity initiatives. He was recognized nationally for his leadership in developing and maintaining strong government partnerships with the livestock industry and the education and research community in the areas of food safety, animal health and emergency preparedness. As Deputy Chief Veterinarian for Ontario, he coordinated the development of emergency response protocols and led incident response under Ontario's Animal Health Act, 2010. Dr. Baker is a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College and has over a decade experience in private practice as well as post graduate training in epidemiology.

### ***About the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC)***

The Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) is comprised of representatives from Ontario's four poultry marketing boards. In 2004, in the aftermath of the British Columbia avian influenza outbreak, Ontario's feather boards committed to coordinate efforts to develop a systematic plan to deal with poultry disease emergencies. The FBCC was established and has provided leadership in areas such as geo-spatial coding of Ontario's more than 2000 commercial poultry farms, participating in various industry/government disease outbreak simulations, staff training, standardizing biosecurity practices on farms and developing a system for stockpiling and distributing primary protective equipment for farmers.

The FBCC's vision is to "Achieve an Emergency Free Ontario Poultry Industry." The mission is to "Proactively manage (prepare, respond, and recover) incidents and emergencies for the poultry industry"

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the CAAP. In Ontario, this program is delivered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council.

### **Contact:**

**Ingrid DeVisser, Chair, Feather Board Command Centre**  
**519-363-3425**

[idevisser@everus.ca](mailto:idevisser@everus.ca)

