

FBCC Annual Report 2022

2022 was an eventful and transitional year for FBCC. Numerous cases of federally reportable disease and several large projects completed, FBCC continues to be active in the prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery from of infectious disease in Ontario's Poultry Industry.

FBCC began the year with plans for an outbreak simulation in the Niagara Region. In partnership with Farm Health Guardian (FHG), the simulation sought to provide insight on how disease outbreak tracing, and rapid notification can be improved to further mitigate the spread of disease. Cumulating in an exercise of the FBCC Emergency Management protocols, the simulation included 3 producers from the Niagara Region and several industry participants. While the planned simulation was interrupted by the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Virus outbreak, FBCC staff, board members and industry stakeholders were presented with an intriguing mapping demonstration in the Fall of 2022, demonstrating the capability of the movement tracing and mapping technologies utilizing the data collected from the simulation.

Spring 2022 brought wave one of the HPAI outbreak to Ontario with 26 Infected Premises (IP) declared in the province, 7 of which were supply managed. FBCC activated a virtual Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) consisting of Incident Management Systems (IMS) trained staff from the four feather boards, allowing for integration and collaboration in executing Incident Action Plans, providing disease alerts to producers and industry, and completing mapping to assist in Primary Control Zone (PCZ) creation. This year FBCC conducted regular noon hour zoom calls offering industry members updates and Q and A sessions with FBCC and CFIA Industry Liaisons.

FBCC's scalable approach to disease response allowed the EOC to be demobilized according to the respective risk level over the summer months. FBCC focused available resources on conducting an internal EOC hotwash of wave one operations, as well as a survey of farmers located within Ontario PCZs 1-65, industry, and support service members from around the province. The results of these surveys were shared and considered by FBCC and CFIA in policy and process improvements.

Wave 2 of the HPAI outbreak in Fall 2022 brought 16 additional IPs in 12 PCZs, 5 of which were supply- managed premises. The FBCC EOC was scaled up once again in September 2022 to meet increasing response demands. FBCC also engaged producers and industry in understanding the CFIA October 2022 HPAI Event Response Plan

FBCC alerted producers and industry of 5 new cases of Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) apart from the ongoing outbreak in the Niagara Region in 2022. In partnership with OAHN and supported by 'Équipe québécoise de contrôle des maladies avicoles (EQCMA) and the Ontario Association of Poultry Veterinarians (OAPV) the Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) Emergency Response Plan (ERP) was completed in August 2022. The ERP acts as a guide for all poultry disease response stakeholders. The ERP also serves as a library of resources useful in preparing and responding to ILT for stakeholders at all levels. The ERP will continue to be updated by FBCC and OAHN.

2022 also marked Dr. Tom Baker's last year of dedicated service to the FBCC, since its inception. Dr. Baker announced his retirement in December 2022. Dr. Harold Kloeze has joined FBCC as Executive Director, with 20 years' experience from CFIA, filling various roles related to animal health, disease management and emergency preparedness.

With the potential for continued HPAI incursions in the Ontario poultry industry, FBCC seeks to continue a coordinated response to serious disease outbreaks in a sustainable and effective manor for Ontario poultry producers, service providers and industry.