

FBCC Annual Report 2023

FBCC's virtual Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) remained activated throughout 2023. Incident Management Systems (IMS) trained staff from FBCC, each of the four feather boards, and industry association partners continued to cooperate in responding to incidents of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza within the province. The FBCC joint response enables the Ontario poultry industry to enjoy business continuity, collaboration with CFIA as the lead agency in response, and further prevention and spread of infectious disease. During spring 2023 the FBCC joint emergency response informed and supported producers in 4 CFIA-established Primary Control Zones (PCZs).

In June 2023, FBCC supported Poultry Industry Council in training and establishing a team of experienced personnel to work as Small Flock Case Workers within their Small Flock Ontario initiative. The small flock case workers are available to respond to HPAI-positive non-commercial infected premises in Ontario. These Case workers are embedded in the FBCC Command structure for support. In October 2023, the first small flock case worker was deployed for initial response.

FBCC also alerted the Ontario poultry industry to cases of Infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT), APMV-1 (Newcastle Disease), and Pasteurella Multocida (Fowl Cholera) utilizing the FBCC emergency management plan and the ILT emergency response plan. The FBCC is available and prepared to respond to 14 targeted poultry diseases.

Throughout 2023 and 2024 FBCC has engaged in outreach to cooperate in sharing lessons learned from the poultry industry response to HPAI, with other provinces and commodities groups in their own planning and preparation efforts. FBCC continues to value relationships with partner agencies in strengthening planning for improved disease response.

In 2023 FBCC also undertook a full organizational review. The FBCC board agreed in 2023 to pursue the goal of not-for-profit incorporation. FBCC is anticipating the results of a consultant report summarizing the findings of consultations with member organizations and industry stakeholders in the coming weeks.

FBCC commends Ontario poultry producers and industry on maintaining high standards for biosecurity throughout 2023 and reminds all members of the industry to remain vigilant as HPAI persists in the environment entering spring 2024.