



## Canadian Animal Health Coalition Coalition canadienne pour la santé des animaux

*Promoting a collaborative approach to animal health  
Œuvrant pour une vision commune de la santé animale*

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Avian Influenza in Ontario**

April 8, 2015—Guelph ON. On April 6th, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced that a turkey farm near Woodstock, Ontario is infected with an H5 avian influenza (bird flu) virus. Laboratory tests are being conducted to determine the exact type and pathogenicity of the virus. Results are expected within days.

The farm has been quarantined and other farms in the immediate vicinity are being quarantined as a precaution against spread of the virus. Surveillance of farms within a 10 km zone will be ongoing by CFIA.

“This is unquestionably a very difficult time for all those involved,” said Canadian Animal Health Coalition Chair, Jennifer MacTavish.

The Ontario case follows two cases of a lethal strain of avian flu reported on Minnesota turkey farms last week. “These U.S. reports, coupled with this week’s case in Ontario, have led the poultry industry to step-up their biosecurity practices which are designed to reduce the risk of infection on farms,” she explained.

“The Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) takes the management of avian influenza very seriously and along with its members, fully supports the protocols that are in place to deal with such outbreaks,” according to Executive Director Mark Beaven. “These protocols have proven to be effective in past cases of bird flu, such as last December’s cases in B.C. where the situation has now been resolved,” he said.

The Canadian poultry industry, the Province of Ontario, the CFIA, and the owner of the infected birds are working closely together to manage the situation and any additional issues as they emerge. The Canadian poultry sector currently practices a high level of biosecurity that reduces the risk of disease spread.

The birds on the infected farm will be humanely euthanized and disposed of, in accordance with provincial regulations and internationally accepted disease control guidelines. Once all birds have been removed, the CFIA will oversee the cleaning and disinfection of the barns, vehicles, equipment and tools to eliminate any infectious material that may remain.

Avian influenza viruses do not pose a risk to food safety when poultry and poultry products are properly handled and cooked. Health Canada confirms, “there is no evidence to suggest that the avian influenza virus can be transmitted to humans through the consumption of food, notably poultry and eggs.”

For more information, updates from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency can be found [here](#).

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The Canadian Animal Health Coalition is a not for profit organization serving Canada’s farmed animal industry. The organization is a partnership of organizations all recognizing a shared responsibility for an effective Canadian animal health system.