

SUSPECT INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT) FARMER BIOSECURITY ADVISORY – Perth County

November 30, 2018

On behalf of the four feather boards, the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) is issuing a **suspect** ILT Disease Advisory to all poultry farmers and small flock growers in a 10 km radius in central part of Perth County.

FBCC has been notified by Egg Farmers of Ontario staff that a commercial egg laying flock in the central part of Perth County has experienced respiratory signs and increased mortality. Samples were submitted to the University of Guelph Animal Health Lab. Under an information sharing agreement, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed that a PCR viral test from this farm was positive for ILT. Additional tests are pending before an ILT diagnosis can be confirmed.

FBCC is collaborating with the farmer and veterinarian to ensure enhanced biosecurity measures are in place to prevent further spread. Farmers and small flock growers within the 10 km biosecurity area around the farm are being contacted and advised to enhance their biosecurity programs.

There is a risk to unvaccinated flocks. Please reinforce your biosecurity protocols, including monitoring the movement of birds, people and equipment onto and off of your farm in the interest of flock health.

Should you suspect any signs of health concerns in your flock, please contact your veterinarian as well as your Board. ILT is a serious contagious disease caused by a respiratory virus primarily in laying hens and chickens. Signs to look out for include: increased mortality, noisy breathing, head-shaking, off feed, decreased egg production, inactivity, ruffled feathers and conjunctivitis.

Please advise any potential visitors to your premises of your biosecurity protocols because of this situation and keep a logbook of movement in relation to your farm. Minimize visits to other poultry production sites, avoid exchanging equipment with other poultry production sites or ensure that it is washed and disinfected. Ensure all personnel in contact with birds wear boots, protective suits, head coverings and gloves/handwashing. Ensure adequate control of vermin and wild birds.

Further biosecurity information for small flock growers is available at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/bird-health-basics/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>.

We anticipate this advisory to remain in place until mid January. A stand down advisory will be issued at the appropriate time. Any updates will be provided through www.fbcc.ca

