

2010 REVISIONS TO THE FREE RANGE OFFSAP AND ACP

In this revised edition, the CFC Board of Directors have incorporated amendments based on feedback from farmers, provincial boards, national biosecurity guidelines, and industry specialists. The new version of the Free Range manual includes both the Free Range On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program (OFFSAP) and the first draft of the Free Range Animal Care Program (ACP).

This 2010 edition includes the 2009 OFFSAP requirements and the additional

Free Range requirements. As for the Free Range ACP, the requirements have been modelled on the current ACP. To ease the paperwork burden with the Flock-Specific Record form and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), both programs have been combined.



The significant changes in the OFFSAP Free Range program include the free range area's downtime, pest control and overhead netting, and the barn/brooder house cleaning and disinfection process. The downtime period has been reduced from an entire growing season requested in the previous version to 21 days between flocks. For pest control, a maximum of two large animals can be used in the free range area for predator control (i.e. lamas, goats, sheep, etc). The requirements for overhead netting/roof over the range area and harrowing of the free range have been removed. Finally, the disinfection process of the barn/brooder house can be performed by allowing a significant downtime by remaining empty for a minimum of 120 days.

By the start of the 2011 growing season, all of the new requirements of the new

revised edition of the Free Range OFFSAP and ACP manual are expected to be implemented on farms and will be evaluated during your next audit. Continued certification will be dependent on the implementation of the requirements as set out in this new edition.

INDUSTRY NEWS: CONDEMNATION REPORTS

Effective April 1, 2011, farmers will notice a change in the documentation they receive regarding condemnations for each lot of birds that has been processed. Currently, farmers receive one document, which details the number and reasons for condemnations as well as the CFIA veterinarian signature. Starting in April, farmers will receive these pieces of information on two separate documents. One document will detail the reasons for condemnations and the other will include the CFIA veterinarian attestation about the process controls at the processing plant.



WTO Negotiations **PAGE 2**



Poultry Science Cluster Underway **PAGE 3**



Faces of Farming **PAGE 4**

FOR A WEEKLY UPDATE
ON THE WTO TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS, VISIT
THE CFC WEBSITE AT:
WWW.CHICKEN.CA
AND CLICK ON
GENEVA WATCH.





NEWS FROM THE HILL

CABINET SHUFFLE

Prime Minister Stephen Harper started off the year with a mini-Cabinet shuffle. The mini-shuffle was essential due to the recent departure of Jim Prentice, former Environment Minister who left the Harper government to take a position with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. While the shuffle was small in terms of the amount of Ministers being moved around, it was major in terms of strategy.

The Hon. Ted Menzies, well known in the agriculture industry from his time as an executive with the CAFTA and Grain Growers of Canada, was promoted and become the Secretary of State for Finance. As the Member of Parliament for McLeod, and having been a grain farmer for over 30 years, CFC looks forward to establishing a good working relationship with Menzies in support of Canada's unique supply management system.

Long-time Reform and Conservative MP, Diane Albonczy moves into the position of Minister of State, Foreign Affairs and the Americas. The Hon. Peter Kent was promoted to Environment and newcomer, Julian Fantino, becomes Minister of State for Seniors. The Hon. Gerry Ritz remains in his position as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Hon. Peter Van Loan continues as Minister of International Trade.

By promoting two Ontario MPs, with one from the greater Toronto area (GTA), the Prime Minister hopes to continue making inroads into the Liberal stronghold and ready his party for the next election. In addition, by promoting two solid Alberta MPs into his Cabinet, Harper reinforces his party's base and frees up his senior Ministers to focus on major issues such as the economy.

WTO NEGOTIATIONS: WILL WE SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

This year seems to be a crucial moment leading toward the completion of the long-standing Doha Round (Doha Development Agenda). The main push comes from WTO's Director-General Pascal Lamy. In an attempt to revive the Doha Round, he announced an "intensive work programme" to finish the Doha Round by the end of 2011 at a Trade Negotiations Committee meeting on November 30, 2010. In summary, he indicated that: "We have the political signal, we have the technical expertise and we have the work programme. We now need to translate these into a comprehensive deal which you can all take back home."

The intensive work programme consists of intensive sessions of the Rules, Trade Facilitation, Trade and Environment, TRIPS, and Development committees held in the second week of 2011, starting with January 10. As for the activity of the WTO committee on agriculture, it resumed sessions in the third week of January.

The atmosphere so far is optimistic and the members of the delegations are keen that work will be completed by the end of this year. This is in line with the plan outlined by Agriculture Negotiations Chairperson, Ambassador David Walker of New Zealand, in meetings held on December 6 and December 10, 2010 and endorsed by negotiators from WTO member countries. Walker asked members to do their homework over the Christmas and New Year break, consult with each other, and report on progress when they meet on January 17th.

According to the Walker's plan, the WTO agriculture negotiators have set the goal of producing a near-final revised draft of "modalities" by the end of March 2011. The next deadline would be the agreement on modalities and other texts by June 2011. This would imply that six months are made available to complete and verify Members' schedules of commitments and to sort out legal wording in various texts. Finally, the Doha Round as a whole would be concluded in the end of 2011 with the WTO Ministerial conference on December 15-17, 2011.

The message is clear. All groups are being asked to narrow their differences and come to an agreement. Pascal Lamy stressed at the WTO's General Council on December 14, 2010 that "at this stage it is not enough to have answering machines around the table. We are at the point where we must have negotiators, and all negotiators have to be prepared to move out of their comfort zones towards agreement."

The meeting of trade ministers from the G-20 countries at the Davos business summit in Switzerland at the end of January may be another window where trade ministers could sort out the differences regarding the outstanding issues. It precedes the general meeting of the WTO on February 2, 2011 to review progress on January's negotiations.

The plan is outlined to conclude the Doha Development Round in its tenth year. However, will members make enough changes in their positions to reach an agreement? It remains to be seen whether the deadlines will be met and the ambitious goal of concluding the Doha Development Agenda this year will be achieved.

POULTRY SCIENCE CLUSTER UNDERWAY



Poultry research in Canada is getting a boost from the federal government. Last November, Member of Parliament Ed Fast (Abbotsford), on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, officially announced that the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC) will receive up to \$1.8 million to lead a Poultry Research Cluster. The Cluster brings together expertise from across the country to tackle some important research issues for the industry.



The funding comes from the Growing Canadian Agri-Innovations Program, a \$158 million five-year program announced in May 2009 to support

industry-led science and technology projects. The program is delivered nationally by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) as part of the federal commitment to Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative designed to support the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of our agriculture industry.

Activities within the Cluster can be divided into three main themes, which align with national research priorities:

- 1. The biology and control of gut-borne bacterial diseases in poultry
- 2. Biology and control of avian influenza in poultry
- 3. Innovative production technologies and practices for Canada's poultry sector

The proposed research is divided into 11 core activities led by 21 principal scientists and a number of support personnel from the following institutions:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- O University of Alberta

- University of Guelph
- University of Montreal
- University of Saskatchewan
- Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization

CPRC is contributing \$589,000 towards the research over three years. Coupled with the funds from AAFC and those from other industry organizations (\$170,000) and government offices (\$293,000) plus in-kind contributions, the total Cluster budget exceeds \$3 million. The following organizations are contributing funding for research within the Cluster:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Agriculture Funding Consortium (Alberta)
- Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- O Canadian Poultry Research Council
- DSM Nutritional Products
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Poultry Industry Council
- Saskatchewan Agriculture Fund
- Saskatchewan Chicken Industry Development Fund

This collaboration among scientists and support organizations is the core

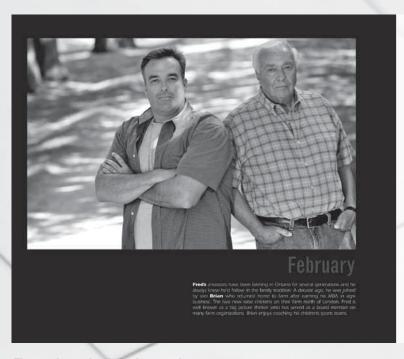
value of the cluster approach to research and is that which CPRC is developing as part of a national poultry science strategy. Pooling intellectual and financial resources to address issues of common interest is a powerful way to maximize the impact of our collective investment in research.

Research within the Poultry Science Cluster is scheduled for completion early in 2013. The work fits in well with Canada's existing poultry research programs and promises to yield valuable information for the industry. Among the expected outcomes are a better understanding of certain poultry diseases, novel means of their control, and recommendations on management practices that will further improve poultry health and welfare.

The founding members of the CPRC include Chicken Farmers of Canada, the Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, Turkey Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada and the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors' Council. CPRC's mission is to address its members' needs through dynamic leadership in the creation and implementation of programs for poultry research in Canada, which may also include societal concerns

For more details on these or any other CPRC activities, visit www.cp-rc.ca.

PEBRUARY 2011 FACES of FARMING



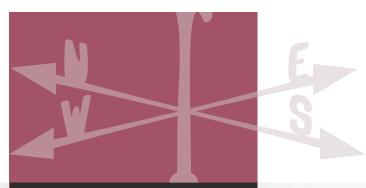
The sixth-annual Faces of Farming calendar this year includes the chicken-raising Lewis family. They are Brian and Fred Lewis of Denfield, Ontario (just north of London). Their page was sponsored by New Life Mills, a new sponsor this year.

The Lewis family have broilers and crop about 2,500 acres of land. Fred's dad originally raised beef cattle but the family has been raising broilers since 1964. Fred was a CFO Director for 10 years too – Brian's now a CFO Councillor and has been for eight years.

Another farm family, the van Lindenbergs, was featured in the OFAC blog. In it, the author detailed the recent personal battles that the family had overcome and their passion for what they do. We are taking this opportunity to salute all farmers and their passion for putting world-class food on our tables.

The caption under their photo reads:

Fred's ancestors have been farming in Ontario for several generations and he always knew he'd follow in the family tradition. A decade ago, he was joined by son Brian who returned home to farm after earning his MBA in agri-business. The two now raise chickens on their farm north of London. Fred is well known as a big picture thinker who has served as a board member on many farm organizations. Brian enjoys coaching his children's sports teams.





The Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) is a registered, non-profit agricultural, educational organization. OFAC represents Ontario's 35,000 livestock and poultry farmers plus many other agricultural groups and businesses involved in animal agriculture and food production.

OFAC is online at www.ofac.org and the OFAC blog, "Let's Talk Farm Animals" is at: www.letstalkfarmanimals.ca

MORE THAN JUST A CALENDAR, A TRIBUTE TO A WAY OF LIFE

By Leslie Ballentine

The death of Ottawa-area dairy farmer Arie van Lindenberg in 2009 touched many members of the farming community. He was by all reports (I didn't know him personally) a cheerful, driven and friendly man whose positive spirit rubbed off on others. His death, to prostate cancer, left a big hole in the family who are carrying on without him. Soon after his death, Arie's widow, Marja, received a call from the Ontario Farm Animal Council to appear in its 2011 calendar. She said she'd be pleased to participate, but only if her sons Matthijs and Barend were included. All three family members appear together in the calendar that pays tribute to the farming community.

This year's sixth-annual Faces of Farming calendar profiles farmers from Sarnia to the Ottawa Valley who produce dairy, poultry, pork, beef, goat's milk, veal and such crops as corn, wheat, soybeans, carrots and onions. The calendar's month of June, in which the van Lindenbergs are profiled, is sponsored by Gay Lea Foods Co-operative Ltd., in tribute to Arie who was a board member.

Marja says that she does more than she ever did helping the boys run the farm since Arie passed away. But she isn't complaining. She says, "I love my animals, and the milking, I don't think I can do anything else." Son Matthijs shares the same devotion. "I'm just happy to do it (farming), to just keep on going," he told a local reporter recently. "It's just your passion."

The Faces of Farming calendar, which is designed to dispel some of the myths and common stereotypes of today's farmers, puts a face on the people who produce food in this country. I am all for that and have two copies of the calendar. Not because I need that many reminders of how quickly the days fly past but because I like to be reminded of why farmers are some of the best people I know.

You can see the whole calendar on the Ontario Farm Animal Council's website at *www.ofac.org*.

To order this year's calendar that features these and 10 more producers visit: www.ofac.org/calendar/faces_form.php.

(Leslie Ballentine's Blog reprinted with permission of OFAC)

SOUTH KOREA STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK AND NEW CASES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

South Korea has culled more than one million animals, mainly pigs and cattle, to contain the country's worst ever foot-and-mouth (FMD) outbreak. Added to the misery of dealing with that outbreak, there has been a sudden surge in avian influenza (AI) cases since late December.

Situations such as these, as well as our own experience with recent contagious animal disease outbreaks in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, are good reminders to maintain our strong biosecurity measures and rigorous on-farm programs.

AVIAN INFLUENZA DETECTED IN THREE KOREAN PROVINCES

The recent cases (16 so far) of AI are of the virulent H5N1 form of the virus and officials have elevated the response level to "level 2" to deal with the outbreak. A level 2 contagious disease alert in South Korea means premises within 3 km are culled whereas the lower level sets the cull distance at 500 metres. A 10 km quarantine zone is also established around each contact premises.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

While the avian influenza situation is still developing, prices of beef and pork are expected to rise in Asia's fourth biggest economy as the FMD outbreak continues. The FMD outbreak, the fourth in South Korea in the past decade and by far the worst, started about six weeks ago and has spread to most regions of the country.

So far South Korea has culled 1.1 million cloven-hoofed animals, which is about 10% of the total number of pigs and cattle in the country, its agriculture ministry said.

The government has now begun a programme to vaccinate all pigs, cows and cloven-hoofed animals. This will

complicate their return to "disease-free status". It takes longer for a country that uses vaccinations to regain disease-free status from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) than when the disease is curbed solely by culling. Since Christmas Day, the Korean government has vaccinated 450,000 cattle.

Authorities are concerned that the drain on resources caused by fighting the two outbreaks at the same time will overwhelm the government and farmers. With more than 100 confirmed cases of FMD in South Korea since late November and this sudden surge in avian influenza cases, veterinarians, students and agriculture officials have been mobilized to participate in the biggest animal culls that South Korea country has ever seen. So far, 65,000 members of the armed forces have also been deployed.

South Korea has been hit by avian influenza three times before. The last outbreak occurred in April 2008 and resulted in a record 8.46 million birds being culled at a cost of around 264 billion won (\$234 million US).

BULGARIA IS ALSO FIGHTING A FMD OUTBREAK

The World Organization for Animal Health reported that one cow, eight pigs, 14 sheep and 12 goats tested positive for the disease in the Burgas region in Bulgaria. The first indications of the presence of the disease were test results from a wild boar from near the Turkish border. While Bulgaria is not a major player in the meat trade, the EU open border policy might be a factor in import bans if EU officials cannot confine the disease to the region or convince their international customers that there is little chance of the disease spreading further.

North American FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VACCINE BANK PROVIDES VACCINE TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The North American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank, administered jointly by commissioners from the United States, Canada and Mexico, is providing the Republic of Korea with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine needed to assist the country with its ongoing FMD outbreak. The vaccine bank will provide the antigen needed to manufacture 2.5 million doses of vaccine to vaccinate pigs and cattle in the Republic of Korea.

"This contribution demonstrates our collective commitment to protecting animal health-both here at home and abroad," said Dr. Brian Evans, Chief **Veterinary Officer and Chief Food Safety Officer for** Canada. "We recognize that addressing the emergence of diseases at their source is an important element of global security and such international collaboration directly contributes to our North American pre-border disease prevention efforts."

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Send us your feedback at: www.chicken.ca

Editor

Marty Brett - mbrett@chicken.ca

Graphic Designer:

Stephanie St.Pierre- sstpierret@chicken.ca