



BC's Updated Animal Health Act and its Role in a Livestock Crisis

Jane Pritchard, BC Chief Veterinarian

Executive Director Plant and Animal Health Branch, Abbotsford

Ministry of Agriculture

Animal Health Act January 19, 2015

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Disclaimer

This Act is Current to January 18, 2017

This Act has "Not in Force" sections. See the Table of Legislative Changes.

ANIMAL HEALTH ACT **[SBC 2014] CHAPTER 16**

Assented to May 29, 2014

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December 1, 2014

Avian flu detected at 2 Fraser Valley poultry farms

Virus detected at Abbotsford turkey farm and Chilliwack broiler chicken breeding farm

CBC News | Posted: Dec 02, 2014 12:36 PM PT | Last Updated: Dec 03, 2014 5:46 AM PT



Avian flu detected at 2 B.C. poultry farms 2:06

355 shares

The H5 avian influenza virus has been detected on two poultry farms in the Fraser Valley east of Vancouver. Officials in B.C. have confirmed



Animal Disease Protection Act

- ▶ Still in effect
- ▶ Out of date
- ▶ Powers poorly described

- ▶ Role
 - ▶ COMMUNICATE
 - ▶ SUPPORT THE CFIA

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New powers under the Animal Health Act

- ▶ Quarantine
- ▶ Surveillance
- ▶ Restrict movements
- ▶ Order destruction
- ▶ Order inspection
- ▶ Order testing
- ▶ Order record keeping and supplying of records
- ▶ Order treatment
- ▶ Hire more people
- ▶ Mandatory reporting



Even greater powers in a declared emergency

- ▶ Do it faster
- ▶ Not required to provide advance notice
- ▶ Can be oral orders not in writing
- ▶ Inspect with or without a warrant
- ▶ Collect material and information that could not otherwise be collected, used or disclosed and collect it in a form or manner that is not prescribed
- ▶ Designate a person to exercise the powers or perform the duties of an inspector or a veterinarian for the period of the emergency
- ▶ Gives the Chief Veterinarian great powers to act in a timely manner and with strong penalties to enforce

Many sleepless
nights





Applying these powers outside of a declared emergency

SMALL HIVE BEETLE

- ▶ Ordered inspections – written advance notice
- ▶ Ordered stop movements – written notification

MYCOPLASMA OVIPNEUMONIA IN DOMESTIC AND WILD SHEEP

- ▶ Explored options of declaring disease free zones, regulating domestic sheep production, declaring it a reportable disease with mandatory testing for movement
- ▶ Options if required would be to allow domestic sheep production by permit which is voluntary to facilitate testing and restricted grazing areas
- ▶ Currently doing outreach to inform domestic sheep producers of the risk their animals pose and carrying out facilitated testing of wild and domestic sheep with a recently developed test in the province.

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Next time with Avian Influenza

- ▶ We can if we need to act ahead of the CFIA to have containment and destruction
- ▶ We have identified the critical points where CFIA must be involved to insure that compensation is not impacted
- ▶ Communication would always still be a primary task
- ▶ Endless possibilities



Questions

Animal Health Act. Notifiable and Reportable Disease Regulation, Enforcement
Regulation

www.BClaws.ca