



# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



**CHAIR:** Jason Born  
**VICE-CHAIR:** Dennis Steinwand  
**DIRECTORS:** Christian Guenter  
Rob van Diemen  
Henk Schuur

**PRODUCER REPRESENTATIVES-** If you have poultry matters which need attention, please contact your Producer Representative to bring them forward for discussion at the Industry Advisory Committee Meetings. These meetings are held twice a year, in the spring and in the fall.

**LACOMBE TO LEDUC (LL)**  
**LEDUC NORTH (LN)**  
**CALGARY SOUTH (CS)**  
**CALGARY TO LACOMBE (CL)**

Arjan Spelt  
Wes Nanninga  
George Hofer  
Sam Guenter

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## 2019 Chair's Message

Fellow Producers and Industry Partners,

As I reflect back on 2019, we have experienced many successes and a number of challenges that we have continued to work through. Growth in our industry continues to be positive as demonstrated by recent allocations. In 2019, we anticipate provincial growth to come in at around 4% which, while certainly positive, is moderating down from the 6-7% year over year growth we had experienced since 2015. In response to this significant growth over the past 4 years, producers have built 60 new barns and our processors have invested millions of dollars into their hatcheries and processing facilities. These investments are a tangible demonstration of the success of the chicken industry in Alberta and is a positive message that resonates well in our discussions with elected officials around jobs and the impact of our industry on Alberta's economy.

Live price remains a top priority for our Board. At this time last year, I had hoped to be able to communicate to you in this year's annual message that we had achieved a new long-term MOU with processors that aligned with our principles. Unfortunately, the COPF process in Ontario is taking longer than we had hoped and as a result, we negotiated an interim MOU with processors through A161 (March 14, 2020) that increased our differential over the Ontario live price from 8.7 cents to 9.3 cents.

Our Board realizes that the current situation is not satisfactory and that you (as we) desire a live price that delivers a fair and reasonable return on investment and ensures an environment for sustainable growth and investment in the industry. This said, we continue to be focused on our principles and long term objectives and believe it is prudent to see what emerges in the new Ontario COPF in establishing a long term Alberta live price agreement, which is a process that has worked well in Alberta for over 10 years, providing stability to producers and processors in a national marketplace.

This all being said, I do hope and anticipate that sometime in 2020, I will be able to announce to you that we have achieved a new long term MOU with processors that is aligned with our principles and we will keep you informed on developments on this front in the months ahead.

We were very active on the advocacy front in this past year. With CUSMA being agreed to late last year, CPTPP coming into force in late 2018 and two elections (Provincial and Federal), there was much communication to do with our elected officials. I had the opportunity in March to make a presentation to the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future on the importance of Canada's dairy and poultry industries to the national and provincial economy along with the impacts of the CUSMA and CPTPP on our industry. This presentation was well received and I believe demonstrated the positive economic contributions our industries have and the real economic impacts these two trade agreements will have on our sectors.

We had a number of opportunities to meet with Provincial and Federal elected officials discussing many aspects of the chicken industry and its positive impacts on the economy. We also discussed the importance of strengthening the import control pillar of the supply management system, which is as important now more than ever with the ratification of CPTPP and CUSMA; and we highlighted a number of areas our Provincial and Federal governments could assist in mitigating the impacts of these agreements.

I would like to thank each of you for your engagement with Provincial and Federal elected officials in the run up to each of the elections that were held this past year. Getting the good news story of the chicken industry out to our elected officials is critical and many of you took advantage of some of the tools and tips developed by our staff to assist in delivering that message.



The importance of farm security came to Alberta in a very tangible way in the fall with the illegal invasion of the Jumbo Valley turkey barn and subsequent announcement by the provincial government on strengthening of laws to protect farms and ranches. As mentioned at our regional meetings, we strongly encourage you to take steps to secure your farm and property and to contact the Board office with any questions you might have on this matter.

We continue to work on a number of other important files including CFC's AMU strategy, the pathogen reduction strategy, marketing and communication initiatives, and our Humane Catching and Transportation Standards Manual, all of which will have important updates in the year ahead that we look forward to sharing with you.

There have been many successes and of course a number of challenges this year, and through it all we look forward with optimism towards a successful year in 2020! On behalf of the Board, I am truly thankful for your support as we have worked on your behalf towards our shared industry vision, and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2020!

Jason Born, Chair

## Celebrating 25 Years of Service! Vera Ward, Office Manager

December 4<sup>th</sup> marked Vera Ward's 25th Anniversary with ACP! Vera has served as our Office Manager and Executive Assistant, and she wears numerous other hats in supporting our organization and our industry. Vera is indeed the glue that binds us together, and she is a pillar of strength for our organization. We are incredibly grateful for her loyalty, her drive for continuous improvement, and her selfless service to ACP. Please join us in congratulating Vera!



## Staff Announcement

Alberta Chicken Producers are delighted to announce that Executive Director, Karen Kirkwood, and her husband Dave have adopted two beautiful babies this past week. Born on December 14, 2019, twins Darwin and Alice are two precious little ones that come at a perfect time – Christmas! Twice as precious and twice as much fun, Karen and Dave have been blessed two times rather than one!

Please join us in congratulating Karen and Dave at this joyous time in their lives.





## Regional Meetings

Thank you to all who attended our Regional Meetings on October 29, 30 and 31<sup>st</sup>.

As well, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the generous sponsorship from Farm Credit Canada, TD Canada Trust, CIBC, Bank of Montreal, Trouw Nutrition, Walbern Agri-Systems, and Zoetis. Thank you for your valued contributions!

## Reminder to Producers – Cold Weather Conditions

With winter upon us, we remind all chicken producers to ensure birds are dry prior to loading.

Producers must be vigilant in their barn management practices to mitigate the risks associated with barns and birds becoming wet prior to transport. We remind producers to ensure you are balancing heat and ventilation requirements to ensure your birds are dry during load out.

Should wet conditions exist on your premise, contact your Processor immediately to provide as much time as possible to address and correct any issues prior to shipment.

Enclosed is a reference sheet outlining Management Practices in Winter Weather Conditions to assist in maintaining optimal barn conditions. [Click here](#) for reference sheet.

### **Best Practice**

A friendly reminder that with the colder Alberta winter temperatures, it's always best practice to regularly test your generator systems. The potential loss of a generator failure could be devastating.

## Mitigation announcement for poultry and egg farmers

As communicated in our October newsletter, the Canadian poultry and egg sectors had anticipated an announcement of the measures to mitigate the impacts resulting from the concessions granted under the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (CPTPP) to be announced in advance of the federal election.

The impact of the CPTPP on the Canadian chicken sector is substantial. Over the agreement's implementation period, 410 million additional kilograms will be imported, displacing production valued at \$1.9 billion based on market receipts. Once fully implemented, 26.7 million kilograms of new access will be provided annually on top of our existing WTO/NAFTA commitments of 94.6 million kilograms. Furthermore, once the new CUSMA is implemented, annual imports will represent 10.8% of total production.

Our focus remains on programs and initiatives that ensure the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of our sectors. Canada's poultry and egg sectors represent 4,500 farmers and more than 127,500 jobs in Canada. Our industries are diverse, and make a sizable contribution to the Canadian economy. Our focus is on programs and initiatives that strengthen the long-term health of our overall sector, allowing our farmers to continue to deliver the made-in-Canada products that Canadians want and love.

With the election now concluded, Chicken Farmers of Canada and poultry and egg producers across the country are continuing to request the federal government to address the losses we will incur as a result of this trade agreement. We encourage producers to speak with your Members of Parliament on this issue. Our staff will be pleased to assist you in these communications.



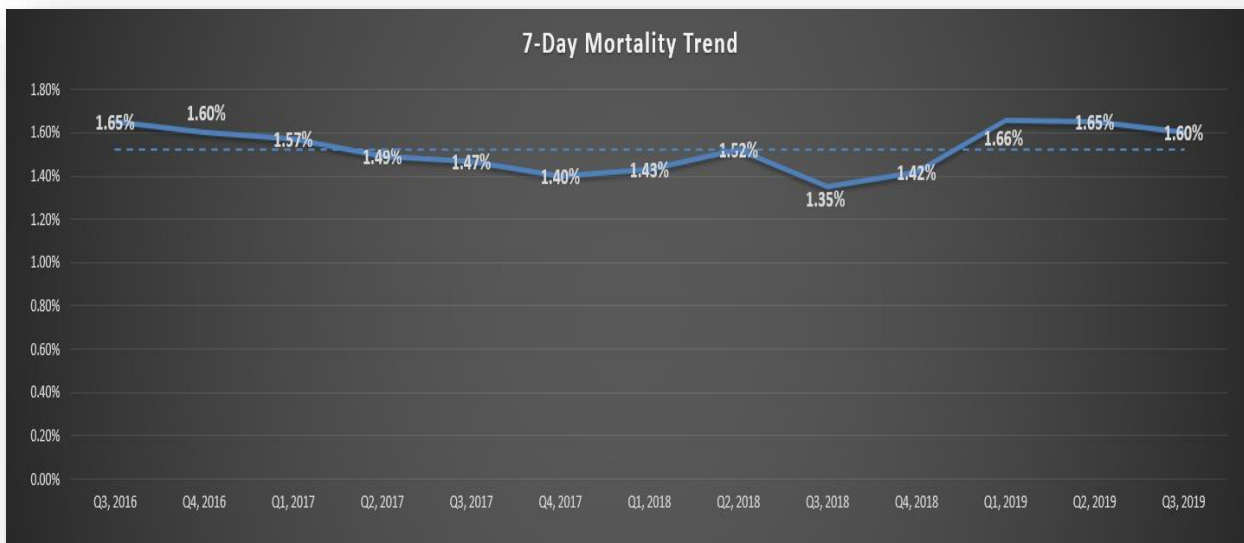
## Update on 7-Day Mortality: Charting Transition to Reduced Antibiotic Use

The Canadian broiler industry is in the midst of an assessment of our readiness to proceed with a ban on the use of Category III antibiotics. With the recent changes to veterinary oversight of antibiotic use, and the ban of Category II antibiotics for prevention of disease, we are still learning about what the repercussions are for broiler management. Monitoring 7-day chick mortality is one of the tools we have to characterize the impact of these changes on the broiler industry.

We need 7-day flock mortality values from all farms to ensure the accuracy of this number. The prairies provide some advantages for broiler production, but do see more risk of Necrotic Enteritis and Coccidiosis compared to some other regions in Canada. As such, it is critical that we have quality data to inform CFC's decision on how to manage the impending ban of Category III antibiotics for disease prevention. Likewise, good data will also allow us to request further information on managing challenges unique to our region. We need to be prepared for imminent changes and identify knowledge gaps before changes come that leave our bird health and welfare at risk.

One role of our Supply Chain Committee is to work with industry partners, to smooth transitions through changes to the broiler industry. One way this is done is through monitoring quarterly industry performance data, such as, mortality, condemnns, DOA's, import egg levels, and more. ***While most of this data can be pulled from processor or CFIA reports, the exception is 7-day mortality. This number has to come from the farm and is the reason processors ask you for this report after the first week. Rather than just submitting the good or the bad results, we need the processors to have all of the results to properly inform the committee on challenges to Alberta broiler farms.***

Below is a graph of the most recent results. Using pooled results allows the committee to get an overall snapshot without identifying results of individual processors. The increase in 7-day mortality observed from the end of 2018 was likely affected by the changes in how antibiotics are being used and which antibiotics can be used. While it is heartening to see that mortality has started to decline again, we need to know if this trend is real, and if it will continue. ***Please submit your 7-day mortality data submitted to the hatchery to help ensure the accuracy of Alberta's numbers!***



## Chicken Farmers of Canada extending the re-assessment timeframe for preventive Category III elimination; taking a responsible, pragmatic approach to antimicrobial use reduction

[Read entire announcement here.](#)

### Get Your Fuel Charge Exception Form in Before the Deadline!

Farmers are eligible to be exempt from the Federal Carbon Tax, the deadline to submit the exemption form is **December 31, 2019. Contact ALL of your farm fuel providers** for more information. If you use more than one supplier, you'll need to fill out a form for each.

[Fuel Charge Exemption Certificate for Farmers Form](#)

[Fuel Charge Relief](#)

### ILWG-CSWG Collaboration:

Part of the Intensive Livestock Working Group's (ILWG) strategic priorities is to collaborate with the Crop Sector Working Group on common issues. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, a strategic collaboration session of the ILWG and CSWG was held to identify overarching issues, determine feasibility of striking a strategic alliance and if appropriate, draft a short list of first actions.

Through this session it was determined that an informal alliance of the sectors has real value, and it is important to move forward at a deliberate pace to facilitate the building of trust in the process. The first step agreed to is the establishment of a communications network among the participating organizations and to hold quarterly conference calls with the intent to broaden perspectives on sectoral issues, improve issue awareness/knowledge and identify those areas of potential collaboration.

### Industry Relations:

As part of maintaining strong relationships with our fellow commodity boards, Director Henk Schuur attended the Alberta Pork AGM on November 21<sup>st</sup> and Director Christian Guenter attended the Alberta Beef Producers AGM on December 4-5<sup>th</sup>. We regret that we were unable to attend the Alberta Milk AGM due to conflicting commitments. These opportunities are effective in strengthening our relationships and building understanding of one another's sectors.





## Leadership Development Workshop

Date: January 14, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Cambridge Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta

Fee to Register: \$100.00

To register, please contact Caitlin Stark at 780-488-2125 or [cstark@chicken.ab.ca](mailto:cstark@chicken.ab.ca). **The deadline to register is December 27, 2019.**



## Government Relations



ACP Chair, Jason Born, Attended Premier Kenney's Reception in Ottawa on December 9, 2019.



ACP Chair, Jason Born and ACP Executive Director, Karen Kirkwood met with Minister of Treasury and Finance, Travis Toews on November 19, 2019.

As well, Directors, Rob van Diemen and Henk Schuur attended the UCP AGM November 29 – December 1, 2019 in Calgary.



## Alberta Chicken Producers' Zoo Display

We are so excited to announce that our Edmonton Valley Zoo exhibit project has come to fruition! Our permanent, year-round exhibit within the Zoo's Urban Farm is now open to educate Albertan's about how chickens are raised.

Here are some fun facts about the zoo:

- The Edmonton Valley Zoo sees over 90k visitors a year and is one of the most affordable family-attractions in Edmonton.
- The exhibit resembles elements of a "real" Alberta broiler farm. One of our model barns are on display, along with video footage of inside of Alberta barns.
- We placed our first flock of chicks at the zoo on Oct. 31.

**A huge thank-you to producer and designer, Darren DeVries for helping us to create this fantastic exhibit.**



## Project Agriculture

In collaboration with Alberta Milk, Alberta Turkey Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers and Egg Farmers of Alberta, we are excited to announce the launch of Project Agriculture!

Project Agriculture provides opportunities to explore agricultural themes, topics, issues and challenges in local and global communities through learning experiences that directly support Alberta Social Studies and Science curriculum, the competencies, literacy and numeracy at the junior and senior high school levels.

Project Agriculture encourages students to interact with each other, their school community and agricultural producers and content experts in their outside communities. Students are challenged to create and share their understandings of current issues connected to agriculture through projects they submit to project agriculture. Encourage students to explore the many photos on this website and in its learning sources that represent current Alberta farms and farmers.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

January 14: Producer Leadership Development Workshop

January 21: Board Meeting

January 22: ILWG Meeting

January 28: Western Boards Meeting

February 11: Board Meeting

February 24: Western Poultry Conference

February 25: Annual General Meeting





## Classifieds

### BARN EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Used Cumberland feed lines with classic pans.  
 Maximus main computer with feed weigher controls.  
 2x Maximus bird scales.  
 1x feed weigher.  
 Complete Karcher pressure washer.  
 24"fans and 48"fans + much more.

Located 25 mins from Red Deer.  
 If interested call Jack Bruning at 403-373-8523





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# Feature Recipe

## Orange-Chicken Lollipops



### INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs (900 g) skinless chicken drumsticks, prepared “lollipop-style.” *See Get Joyful! Tip on the next card!*
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) vegetable oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

### GARNISH

- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) fresh orange, zest
- 2 green onions, finely chopped
- ¼ cup pomegranate arils

### SAUCE

- 2 cups (500 mL) 100% orange juice
- ¾ cup (180 mL) apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) prepared orange marmalade
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) molasses
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) cornstarch
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) Chili powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) garlic powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) onion powder
- 1-2 tsp (5-10 mL) red pepper flakes

Look for more delicious recipes at [chicken.ab.ca](http://chicken.ab.ca)

“A single chicken drumstick boasts 12 grams of protein and brings the hands-on fun we love to the dinner table.”

- Registered Dietitian, Emily Mardell



### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Prepare chicken drumsticks “lollipop-style.” *Get Joyful! Tip: Use a sharp paring knife to carefully cut around the top of the drumstick. Cut all the way around through the skin, meat, and tendons until you reach the bone. Use side of the knife to remove tendons and push the meat down towards the bottom of the drumstick forming “handle” for easy eating.*
3. Layer chicken lollipops in a Dutch oven, drizzle with vegetable oil and season with salt and pepper.
4. Add sauce ingredients into a medium bowl and stir to combine with a whisk or fork.
5. Pour sauce mixture over chicken and cover with lid. Bake chicken for 45 minutes.
6. Remove Dutch oven lid and baste chicken with thickened sauce from pan. Cook chicken uncovered for another
7. 15 minutes, until chicken lollipops are shiny and caramelized. Chicken should be cooked to an internal temperature of 165°F (74°C).
8. Plate lollipops family style and garnish with extra sauce from pan, chopped green onion, orange zest curls and pomegranate arils.

Look for more delicious recipes at [chicken.ab.ca](http://chicken.ab.ca)

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