

APRIL

Newsletter





Alberta Chicken Producers' Board and Staff Contact Information:

CHAIR: David Hyink **VICE-CHAIR:** Ross Bezovie

DIRECTORS: Wes Nanninga, Rob van Diemen, Tara deVries

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)	Adrian Tobler
LEDUC NORTH (LN)	Andre Poulin
CALGARY SOUTH (CS)	Byron Ference
CALGARY TO LACOMBE (CL)	Bruce Baerg

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facebook.com/ABchickenproducers



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[Alberta Chicken Producers](https://pinterest.com/AlbertaChickenProducers)



[Alberta Chicken Producers](https://linkedin.com/company/AlbertaChickenProducers)



[@ABCChickenProducers](https://youtube.com/@ABCChickenProducers)

Alberta Poultry Industry Reception and Alberta Chicken Producers' 60th AGM

In February, Alberta Chicken welcomed producers and industry partners to Red Deer for the Alberta Poultry Industry Reception and our Annual General Meeting.

The Alberta Poultry Industry Reception, held February 23, brought together chicken, egg, hatching egg, and turkey farmers along with processors, supply-chain partners, and government representatives from across the sector. The reception provided an important opportunity to connect, strengthen relationships, and highlight the role Alberta's poultry industry plays in feeding Canadians.

We were honoured to welcome Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, RJ Sigurdson, who joined the reception and brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Alberta. His remarks recognized the important contributions poultry farmers make to Alberta's economy, rural communities, and food security.



Election Highlights

Congratulations to David Hyink and Tara deVries on their re-election to the Alberta Chicken Producers Board of Directors. We appreciate their continued leadership and commitment to representing Alberta chicken farmers.

2026–2027 Alberta Chicken Producers Board of Directors

- David Hyink – Chair
- Ross Bezovie – Vice Chair
- Rob van Diemen – Chicken Farmers of Canada Director
- Tara deVries – Chicken Farmers of Canada Alternate
- Wes Nanninga – Director



David Hyink
Chair



Ross Bezovie
Vice-Chair



Tara deVries
Director



Rob Van Diemen
Director



Wes Nanninga
Director

Producer Representatives

We are pleased to share the current Producer Representatives:

- Byron Ference — Calgary South
- Adrian Tobler (newly elected) — Lacombe to Leduc
- Andre Poulin (newly elected) — Leduc North
- Bruce Baerg — Calgary to Lacombe

We also extend our sincere thanks to Hinke Therrien and Arjan Spelt, who have reached the end of their terms as producer representatives. Their time, insight, and dedication have contributed meaningfully to ACP's work, and we are grateful for their service to the organization and to fellow producers.

Alberta Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team Spring Notice





[Click here to read the APIEMT Spring Notice](#)

CFIA Study on HPAI Prevention: Invitation to Poultry Producers

Preventing future outbreaks of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) requires focusing on mitigation

measures that truly make a difference at the farm level. To support this goal, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), in collaboration with the University of Montreal is conducting a case-control study to identify farm-level risk factors and effective mitigation practices associated with HPAI.

[Click here to read the letter](#)



Avian Influenza During Spring Wild Bird Migration – March 13, 2026

Confirmed poultry HPAI-positive premises: January – February 2026

New cases in Canada		New cases in United States	
January 2026	British Columbia: 1	January 2026	62
	Quebec: 2	February 2026	63
February 2026	British Columbia: 2		
	Ontario: 1		
	Nova Scotia: 1		

In 2025, Alberta reported no cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) during the spring period until a single detection was confirmed on May 12 in a non-commercial, non-poultry flock. No additional cases were identified until the fall, when 25 cases were reported between September and December. Alberta currently has two Primary Control Zones in place, with nine infected premises remaining under CFIA quarantine and movement restrictions. Due to this, Alberta remains at a High level of risk.

Given the ongoing global spread of HPAI, continued surveillance in both wild and domestic species remains essential. This pathogen continues to impact wildlife, livestock, and public health worldwide.

A surge in cases is possible this spring as large numbers of migratory birds carrying the virus make their way back to/through Alberta.

With ongoing avian influenza challenges and the virus continually being detected in wildlife, it's important to be thinking critically about all the potential ways the virus could enter the barn.



Potential risk factors and methods to reduce that risk. (from CFIA epidemiological investigations in BC)

Barn entrance process
Highest risk: Barn that has no barn-dedicated boots.
Medium risk: Barn entrances with either no delimitation or a painted line between the CAZ and the RA. Some Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as coveralls, hand sanitizer, or gloves are available.
Lowest risk: The barn entrance has a bench to separate the CAZ and the RA, barn-dedicated boots and available PPE.

Mortality management – mortality collection bucket
Highest risk: Mortalities are taken outside the barn while wearing barn dedicated boots, or the same bucket is being used in all barns and then taken to the disposal site.
Medium risk: Mortalities are collected in barn-specific buckets and then taken outside for disposal.
Lowest risk: Mortalities are collected in barn-specific buckets and then the mortality is transferred from the inside barn bucket to an outdoor bucket for disposal.

Mortality management – composting
Highest risk: Mortality is buried in an unprotected manure pile, such as an open shed, that can be accessed by wildlife.
Medium risk: Mortality is buried in a protected manure pile with limited access by wildlife.
Lowest risk: Mortality is disposed of in a closed compostor or incinerator, with no access by wildlife.

Shipping management
Highest risk: Protocols where the thinning-out and split loads take place over a period greater than 2 days
Lowest risk: All-out protocols are used. If thinning is used, cleaning and disinfecting the anteroom after thinning is a best practice, along with catching crews using PPE.



Invitation letter to commercial poultry producers of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba

Preventing future outbreaks of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) requires focusing on mitigation measures that truly make a difference at the farm level. To support this goal, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), in collaboration with the University of Montreal is conducting a case-control study to identify farm-level risk factors and effective mitigation practices associated with HPAI.

This study builds on similar research conducted in [Quebec and Ontario in 2023–2024](#). Because this research has yielded useful results according to the industry representatives in these two provinces, we are proposing to do the same in Western Canada. **Your participation is essential to ensure results are relevant, robust, and applicable to your region.**

About the study
The study compares farm characteristics, management practices, and biosecurity measures between HPAI-infected and non-infected commercial poultry premises. Data will be collected through a virtual interview using a validated questionnaire of 50 questions. **All information will remain strictly confidential. Only aggregated and anonymized results will be reported.**

Eligibility

- **Infected premises (cases):** 28 commercial premises were infected between September and December 2025 (16 in Alberta, 6 in Saskatchewan, and 6 in Manitoba). All premises are invited to participate. Questions will focus on the 14 days prior to the onset of clinical signs.
- **Non-infected premises (controls):** 159 commercial premises were within a Primary Control Zone (PCZ) between September and December 2025. Active farms in a PCZ or within the same county as an infected commercial premises during that time window are invited to participate. Questions will focus on September to December 2025.

How to participate
Complete a [short online form](#) to express interest, indicate your availability, and sign the consent form. A field epidemiologist will contact you between February and April to schedule a virtual interview. Topics include bird numbers and types, farm practices, and bird movements during the relevant period.

Why your participation matters
Including a wide range of species and production types—ideally at least two non-infected premises per infected premises—will strengthen the study's conclusions and help inform practical, evidence-based HPAI prevention strategies for the poultry sector.

Project leads

- [Manon Racicot](#), DVM, PhD, Veterinary epidemiologist, CFIA
- [Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt](#), DVM, MSc, PhD, Professor, Université de Montréal

Thank you for considering participation in this important study. Your contribution will help strengthen our collective ability to prevent HPAI and protect Canada's poultry sector!

Government Relations Activities

Alberta Chicken Producers participate in Alberta Chambers of Commerce Political Action Day



On March 11, Alberta Chicken Producers participated in the Alberta Chambers of Commerce Political Action Day in Edmonton. The event brought together MLAs from across the province, Alberta businesses, and industry leaders to discuss key priorities for the province’s economic future.

The day featured a keynote address from Premier Danielle Smith and provided an opportunity for direct engagement with government representatives and other stakeholders from a wide range of sectors.

Political Action Day is an important forum for connecting with decision-makers and ensuring that agriculture remains part of the broader conversation around economic growth, labour, infrastructure, and investment in Alberta.

ACP participates in Joint Annual Reception in Ottawa



On March 25, 2026, Alberta Chicken Producers directors and staff attended the Joint Annual Reception (JAR) in Ottawa.

Hosted by Canada’s four national poultry organizations, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, Egg Farmers of Canada, and Turkey Farmers of Canada, this annual event brings together farmers, industry stakeholders, and key government decision-makers.

L to R: ACP and CFC Director Rob van Diemen, ACP Director Tara deVries, MP John Barlow, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Agri-Food and Food Security, CFC Young Farmer Byron Ference, and ACP Chair David Hyink

The reception provides an important opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about the opportunities and challenges facing Canada's poultry sector, including supply management, trade, and the overall sustainability of our industry.

Events like JAR play a key role in strengthening relationships with federal representatives and ensuring the voice of Alberta chicken farmers is part of national conversations that impact our sector.

Alberta Chicken Producers meet with agriculture minister and elected officials

Alberta Chicken Producers met April 23 with Minister RJ Sigurdson, Deputy Minister Jason Hale and the minister's chief of staff at the Legislature in Edmonton to discuss key priorities and opportunities for the sector.

Key topics discussed included:

- Alberta's market growth and increasing share of national chicken production
- Capacity across the value chain, including on-farm expansion
- Supply constraints such as reliance on imported parent stock and ongoing domestic breeder expansion
- Operational challenges, including disease impacts and chick quality
- Policy considerations affecting growth, including regulatory, labour and research constraints
- Trade and market access issues, including CUSMA, tariff rate quotas and spent fowl
- Ongoing advocacy efforts related to supply management and opportunities to engage with government caucus

Alberta Chicken Producers staff will be working alongside the minister's team to plan an upcoming advocacy event. More details will be shared as they become available.



L-R: Alberta Chicken Producers Executive Director Geoff Brown, Deputy Agriculture Minister Jason Hale, Alberta Chicken Producers Board Chair David Hyink, Alberta Chicken Producers Vice-Chair Ross Bezovie, and Alberta Chicken Producers Manager of Public Affairs Maria Leslie. Not photographed: RJ Sigurdson and Darby Crouch, Chief of Staff.

Following the meeting, directors and staff also had an opportunity to connect with MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk.



L-R: Alberta Chicken Producers Manager of Public Affairs Maria Leslie, Alberta Chicken Producers Executive Director Geoff Brown, Alberta Chicken Producers Vice-Chair Ross Bezovie, MLA Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, and Alberta Chicken Producers Board Chair David Hyink.

Producer leadership workshop hosted in Red Deer

Thank you to the producers and directors who joined us in Red Deer for the 2026 Producer Leadership Development Workshop on March 20. The day brought together current and aspiring leaders from across the province for a focused session on governance, communication and the work of the Alberta Chicken Producers Board.

Facilitated by Karen Kirkwood, the workshop gave participants a chance to explore their personal leadership strengths, practise effective interpersonal and communication skills, and talk through real-world governance scenarios. Attendees also took a closer look at ACP's governance structure and how directors, producer representatives and volunteers each contribute to a strong, accountable organization.

Your engagement and willingness to invest in leadership development help keep Alberta's chicken sector strong, resilient and well represented at the board table. We look forward to building on this momentum at future leadership opportunities.



ACP engages with consumers at Calgary Co-op Grape Escape

On March 20–21, Alberta Chicken Producers participated in the Calgary Co-op Grape Escape, connecting with consumers alongside Calgary Co-op and Maple Leaf Foods.

This event continues to be a valuable opportunity to engage directly with attendees, share information about chicken farming in Alberta, and highlight that Calgary Co-op proudly carries 100% Alberta raised chicken.

A sincere thank you to Calgary Co-op and Trish with Maple Leaf for once again inviting us to be part of this event and for their continued partnership.

We also extend our thanks to our volunteers, Byron Ference, Lisa Lix, George Hofer, and Gary Hofer, for their time and enthusiasm in engaging with attendees and helping tell our story.

We continue to receive incredibly positive feedback from our volunteers, noting that attendees are highly engaged, curious, and eager to learn more about how their food is raised.



ACP connects with students at Lethbridge Aggie Days

Hosted March 25–26, Aggie Days welcomed more than 1,000 students from across southern Alberta for a hands-on learning experience focused on where food comes from and how it's produced. Students explored a wide range of topics, including livestock production, crops, and farm safety, through interactive exhibits and activities designed to spark curiosity and connection to agriculture.

Events like Aggie Days play an important role in bridging the gap between consumers and farmers. With many students now several generations removed from the farm, these opportunities help build understanding and trust in how food is raised and produced in Alberta.

At our booth, students had the chance to learn more about chicken farming in Alberta through our interactive display, which featured our chicken trivia wheel, live chicks, a model barn, feed display, and educational backdrops. These hands-on elements helped spark great conversations and gave students a closer look at how chicken is raised in Alberta.

A big thank you to our dedicated volunteers who represented our sector and shared their knowledge: Rick Hofer, George Hofer, Andrew Wurz, and Seth Bijlsma.



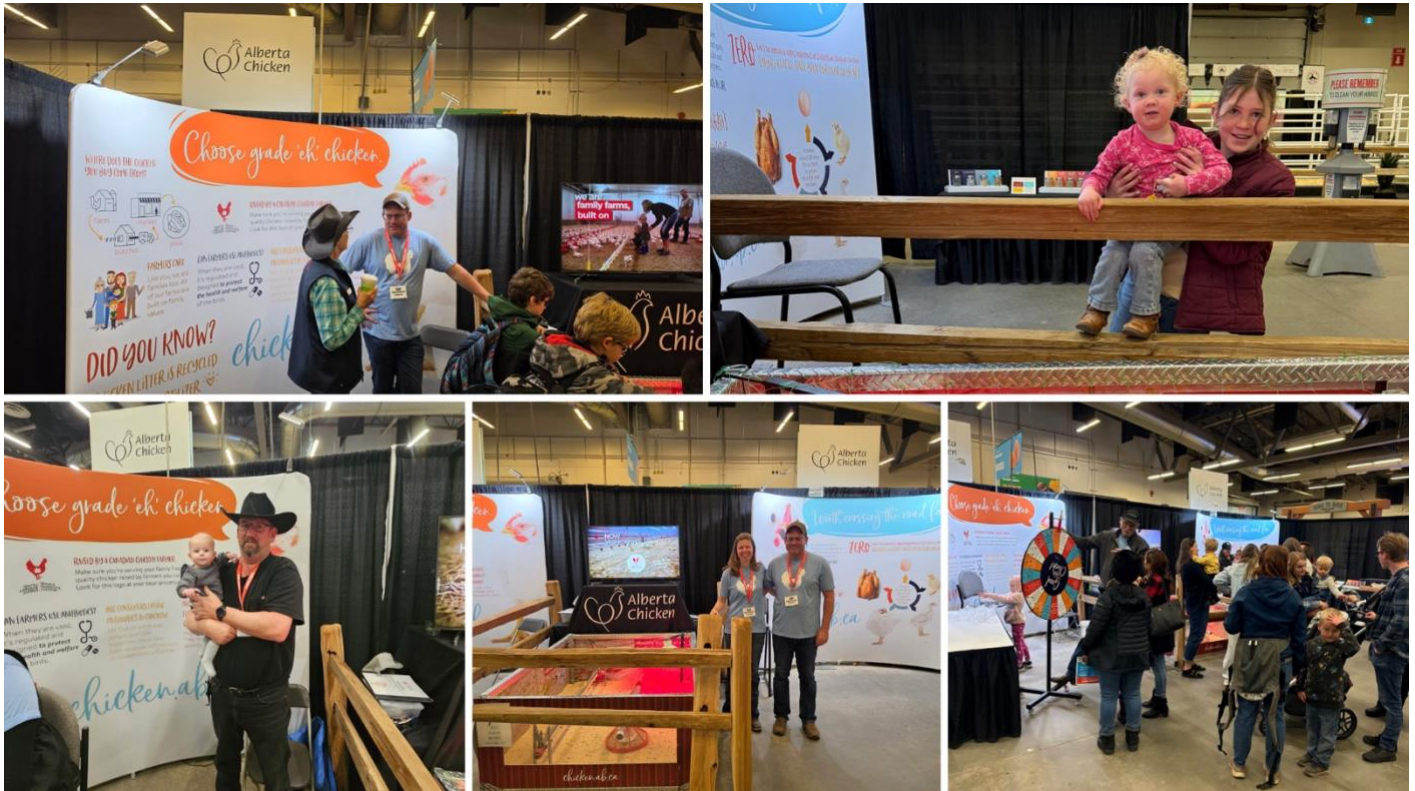
ACP connects with families at Calgary Stampede Aggie Days

Alberta Chicken Producers was proud to participate in this year’s Calgary Stampede Aggie Days, held at Stampede Park April 15-19. The event welcomed thousands of school children and families to the Nutrien Western Event Centre for hands-on learning about where food comes from and how it is raised in Alberta.

Aggie Days plays an important role in connecting urban audiences with the people and practices behind their food. With many visitors now several generations removed from the farm, events like this help build understanding and trust in how food is produced, while also sparking interest in agriculture and food careers.

At our booth, visitors learned more about chicken farming in Alberta through interactive elements such as our trivia wheel, model barn, feed display and educational backdrops. These displays, along with conversations with our volunteers, helped families see how chicken is raised in our province and the care producers take in animal welfare and food safety.

A big thank you to our dedicated volunteers who represented our sector and shared their knowledge throughout the event: George Hofer, Brianna Wollman, David Wollman, Rachel Voth, Mark Oostenburg, Danielle Bruning, Jack Bruning, Henk Schuur and Nieske Schuur.



Alberta chicken showcased at culinary event supporting future chefs

Alberta Chicken Producers was proud to sponsor this year's Hot Chefs, Cool bEATS event at Edmonton's Royal Glenora Club on Thursday, April 23. The sold-out evening brought together more than 20 of Edmonton's top chefs for an all-inclusive night of food, wine, beer, spirits and live music in support of the Canadian Culinary Fund and its High School Culinary Challenge program.



As title sponsor, Alberta chicken was featured prominently at several chef stations, where guests sampled creative dishes showcasing our product in a range of styles and flavours. Throughout the night, attendees had the chance to visit multiple tasting stations, connect with local chefs and learn more about the ingredients and producers behind the menu.

Thank you to the organizers, chefs and guests who helped make Hot Chefs, Cool bEATS a memorable celebration of Edmonton’s culinary talent and a strong showcase for Alberta chicken. This event helps grow the next generation of culinary leaders while highlighting the quality and versatility of our product.



Staff Updates

Welcoming New Team Members to Alberta Chicken Producers

Alberta Chicken Producers is pleased to welcome two new team members who have recently joined the organization in key roles supporting our farmers and the broader poultry sector.

Kristian Quist joined the team on March 30 as Business & Market Analyst. Kristian brings a strong academic background, having completed both a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Calgary. With a focus on areas such as regulatory economics and supply management, Kristian is well-positioned to support ACP's market insights and strategic initiatives. He has a long-standing interest in agriculture and is eager to contribute to strengthening the sector. Outside of work, Kristian enjoys painting, reading, and spending time outdoors.

Rachelle Foss (née Davidson) joined Alberta Chicken Producers on April 15 as Executive Advisor. In this role, she works closely with the Executive Director to support the strategic and operational needs of the Board. Rachelle brings over a decade of experience in the poultry industry, with a background that includes the University of Alberta Poultry Research Centre, Maple Leaf Foods, and Steinbach Hatchery. A graduate of the University of Alberta, her deep knowledge of the Alberta poultry sector makes her a valuable addition to the team.

Please join us in welcoming Kristian and Rachelle to Alberta Chicken Producers. We are excited to have them on board and look forward to the contributions they will make in supporting our farmers and advancing the industry.



Kristian Quist, Business & Market Analyst



Rachelle Foss, Executive Advisor

Domestic Allocation (live kgs)	33,821,158
Market Development (live kgs)	100,000
Specialty Allocation (live kgs)	0
Total Allocation (live kgs)	33,921,158
Percentage of Utilization	97.65%

PERIOD	CFC Sets Allocation
A-203 (June 28-August 22, 2026)	25-Mar-25
A-204 (August 23-October 17, 2026)	13-May-26
A-205 (October 18-December 12, 2026)	14-Jul-26
A-206 (Dec 13, 2026-February 6, 2027)	02-Sep-26
A-207 (February 7, 2027-April 3, 2027)	21-Oct-26
A-208 (April 4, 2027-May 29, 2027)	08-Dec-26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future 'Allocation' dates are published in our Newsletter so that producers can be aware when the next unallocated Period is being set. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dates assist producers in determining how to provide the required notice to transfer quota, change processors, or to have discussions with processors with respect to Market Development allotments. 	

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- April 28, 2026: APIEMT Spring Producer Webinar
- May 9, 2026: Stollery Teddy Bear Fun Fest (Edmonton)
- May 27, 2026: Board Meeting
- May 28, 2026: IAC Meeting
- July 2, 2026: Board Meeting
- July 3-12, 2026: Calgary Stampede

Classifieds

WANTED:

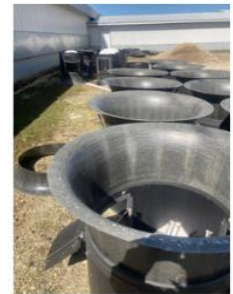
7000 Units of Broiler Quota
Call 780-308-8001

WANTED:

Broiler Quota Wanted
Call Peter @ 403-392-5230

FOR SALE:

Exhaust Flaps
Contact: Dan - dsnhofer@gmail.com
780-878-4208



FOR SALE:

Agri Alert 9600 Complete System

- Excellent condition, only issue is main board can no longer charge back-up battery
- Comes with Secondary control box key pad, 3 x TP 800, battery box and DC Electric Box
- All in working condition, we upgraded to Argi Alert 128
- Asking \$2000 obo

Contact: Marc 780-887-0351



FOR SALE

Chicken Mortality Wagons
Contact: Caleb 780-699-1223

