

## WHY DO POULTRY HEALTH SURVEILLANCE?

- Early detection of major disease events
- Can prevent some diseases from establishing themselves in your operation and in Alberta
- Detect new and emerging disease
- Key in designing and evaluating control programs
- Supports market access and industry recovery should significant health issues occur
- A powerful tool in addressing consumer concerns should they arise
- Is crucial to the success of our agri-food industry

## WHAT CAN PRODUCERS DO TO HELP?

- Establish working relationships with poultry health professionals in your industry
- Ensure abnormal health events are investigated and dealt with early
- Call your veterinarian when you suspect a problem
- Participate in establishing and growing effective surveillance activities for your industry
- Ensure high standards of biosecurity are part of your production practices

## WHAT IF WE FIND A HEALTH PROBLEM?

Losses due to disease can be minimized by speedy response. There is nothing to be gained by hiding or ignoring a problem—and much to be lost. The AVSN team is committed to working closely with industry for the benefit of producers.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To find out more about poultry health surveillance and the Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network, go to:  
[www.agric.gov.ab.ca/avsn](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/avsn)

### Or contact us at:

O.S. Longman Building  
6909-116 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6H 4P2  
T. 780.422.1923  
F. 780.422.3438

### For information on biosecurity, go to:

[www.agric.gov.ab.ca/biosecurity](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/biosecurity)



## WHY DO POULTRY HEALTH SURVEILLANCE?

## WHAT IS POULTRY HEALTH SURVEILLANCE?

There are two components of a surveillance program: Detection and Response.

### 1) DETECTION

Poultry health issues are detected by:

- Collecting data every day from producers and other sources, including lab procedures, field investigations and veterinary practitioners
- Analyzing and continuously monitoring data

Comprehensive, ongoing poultry health surveillance allows AAFRD and other agencies to respond more effectively to events that can devastate the poultry industry. Information generated through quality surveillance programs also assists industry with making informed decisions regarding control, recovery and response to international and domestic poultry health events. The cooperative, partnering and comprehensive approach to surveillance undertaken by Alberta is groundbreaking and could serve as a model for the rest of Canada.

### 2) RESPONSE

Information about the health status of Alberta's poultry is reported to the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, producer groups, marketing agencies and other stakeholders on a regular basis.

When a poultry health issue is detected, AAFRD staff will:

- Immediately inquire and discuss observed events with appropriate officials within the poultry industry
- Assist with rapid dissemination of information to Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network (AVSN) participants, poultry boards, consulting veterinarians and other animal health professionals serving the poultry industry
- Recommend actions for producers and producer groups where appropriate
- Assist with resolution of potential consumer and market access issues by working with poultry health professionals, key stakeholders and public health officials as needed



Surveillance requires expertise in veterinary medicine, epidemiology and pathology. Scientists working for Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD) look for unusual disease patterns that suggest changes in the trends of known diseases and the potential emergence of rare or new diseases.

The **Alberta Veterinary Surveillance Network** has three programs that support poultry health surveillance:

- **Veterinary Practice Surveillance (VPS)** is an innovative system that collects and shares information among veterinarians via the Internet
- **Livestock Pathology Consultation Program (LPCP)** assists private veterinary practitioners in investigating significant flock problems and/or diagnostically challenging disease issues
- **Livestock Disease Investigation Network (LDIN)** provides veterinary practitioners access to a team of epidemiologists, veterinarians and pathologists that investigate significant disease issues and outbreaks (especially those diseases that impact market access, food safety or public health)