Avian Influenza – The Ontario Perspective: Lessons Learned

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February 23, 2016
Gateway Summit IV

Relationships are important

Shared learning opportunities

Understanding other perspectives
Foreign Animal Disease Response In Canada

CFIA – Health of Animals Act
Disease Control

OMAFRA – Animal Health Act
Animal Health & Welfare

Industry

County/Municipality
Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Response Plan

CLEAR DEFINITION of ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

CFIA
- Disease containment and eradication activities
- Compensation
- Communication with Partners
- Disease Surveillance

OMAFRA
- Technical support
- Liaison with other Ministries
- Stakeholder communication
- GIS support
- Animal Health and Welfare outside zone

OFMEM
- Support EM strategy
- Coordination of Provincial Ministries
- Facilitate emergency declaration process
- Ensure continuity of critical government services
AI: The Ontario Experience

- Highly pathogenic AI (H5N2)
- Confirmed on 3 farms — April 7, 18, 25 2015
- All located in Oxford County
- 2 Commercial turkey farms and a broiler breeder farm
- Birds lost: 79, 780
- Estimated economic impact: undetermined
OMAFRA’s Activities

Liaison with Industry and advisories for stakeholders

Liaison with supporting Ministries (Health, Labour, Transportation)

Technical Expertise

GIS support

Economic Analysis
AI: The Ontario Experience

Factors influencing the Outcome

• Few cases
  – Geographical proximity
  – Farm size
  – Poultry density

• Recent experience in British Columbia
  – Heightened awareness

• Regulatory Cooperation Council Agreement – Zoning

• Strong industry coordination
• Strong industry biosecurity
Lessons Learned

Solidify stakeholder relationships in peace time
- Information sharing agreements
- Speed of data transfer

Exercise your response plans
- Clarify expectations, roles and responsibilities

Risk communication is critical (from start to finish)
- Plain language, detailed boundaries, dedicated information channel

GOOD DATA
- Standardized data management and mapping
- Current information

Streamlining of certain processes
- Minimize disruption for time critical movements
Moving Forward

- Identify and understand ALL stakeholder groups
- Information sharing agreements between industry and governments
- Standardization of data
- Clarification of roles of supporting ministries and agencies
- Development of joint communication strategies and platforms
Acknowledgements

• JoAnne Ford
  Area Emergency Coordinator, Ontario
  Canadian Food Inspection Agency

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Thank you