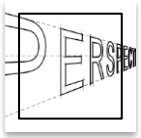
Avian Influenza – The Ontario Perspective: Lessons Learned

Cathy Furness DVM, MSc, DACVIM – LAIM
Lead – Planning and Preparedness
Animal Health and Welfare Branch
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
February 23, 2016

Gateway Summit IV



Relationships are important

Shared learning opportunities

Understanding other perspectives

Foreign Animal Disease Response In Canada

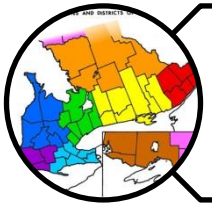
CFIA – Health of Animals Act

Disease Control

OMAFRA – Animal Health Act

Animal Health & Welfare

Industry



County/Municipality

Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Response Plan

CFIA

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

OMAFRA

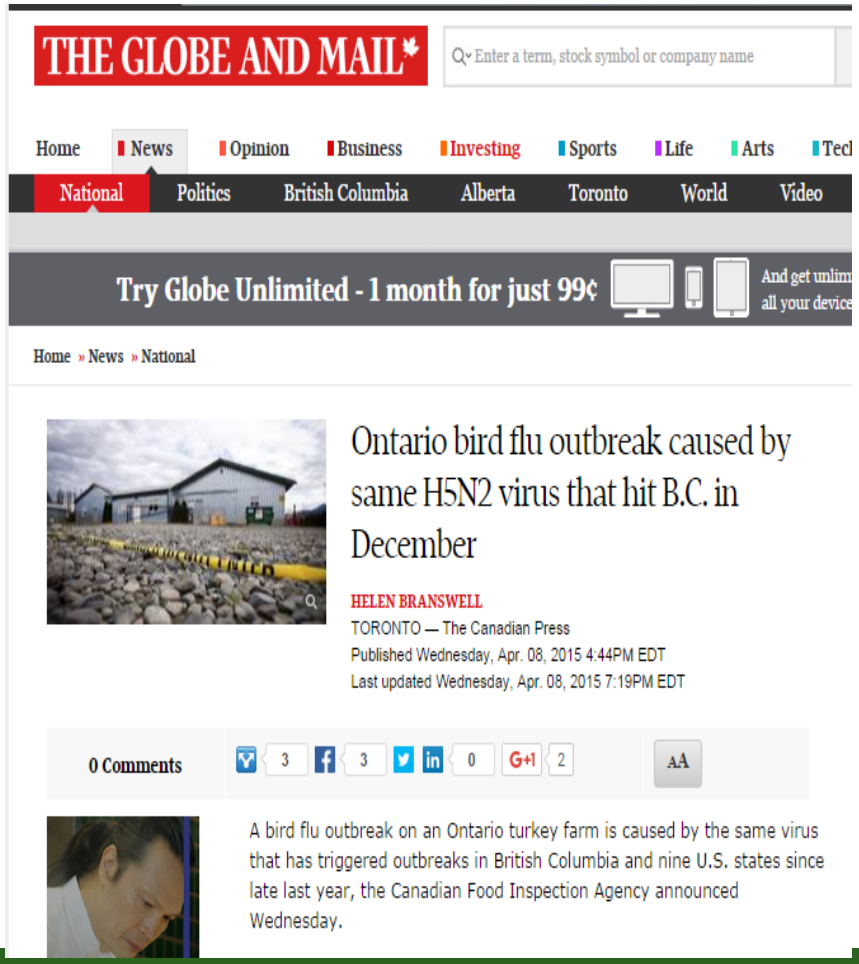
- Technical support
- Liaison with other Ministries
- Stakeholder communication
- GIS support
- Animal Health and Welfare outside zone

OFMEM

- Support EM strategy
- Coordination of Provincial Ministries
- Facilitate emergency declaration process
- Ensure continuity of critical government services

CLEAR DEFINITION of ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

AI: The Ontario Experience



THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Enter a term, stock symbol or company name

Home | News | Opinion | Business | Investing | Sports | Life | Arts | Tecl

National | Politics | British Columbia | Alberta | Toronto | World | Video

Try Globe Unlimited - 1 month for just 99¢ And get unlim all your device

Home » News » National

Ontario bird flu outbreak caused by same H5N2 virus that hit B.C. in December

HELEN BRANSWELL

TORONTO — The Canadian Press

Published Wednesday, Apr. 08, 2015 4:44PM EDT

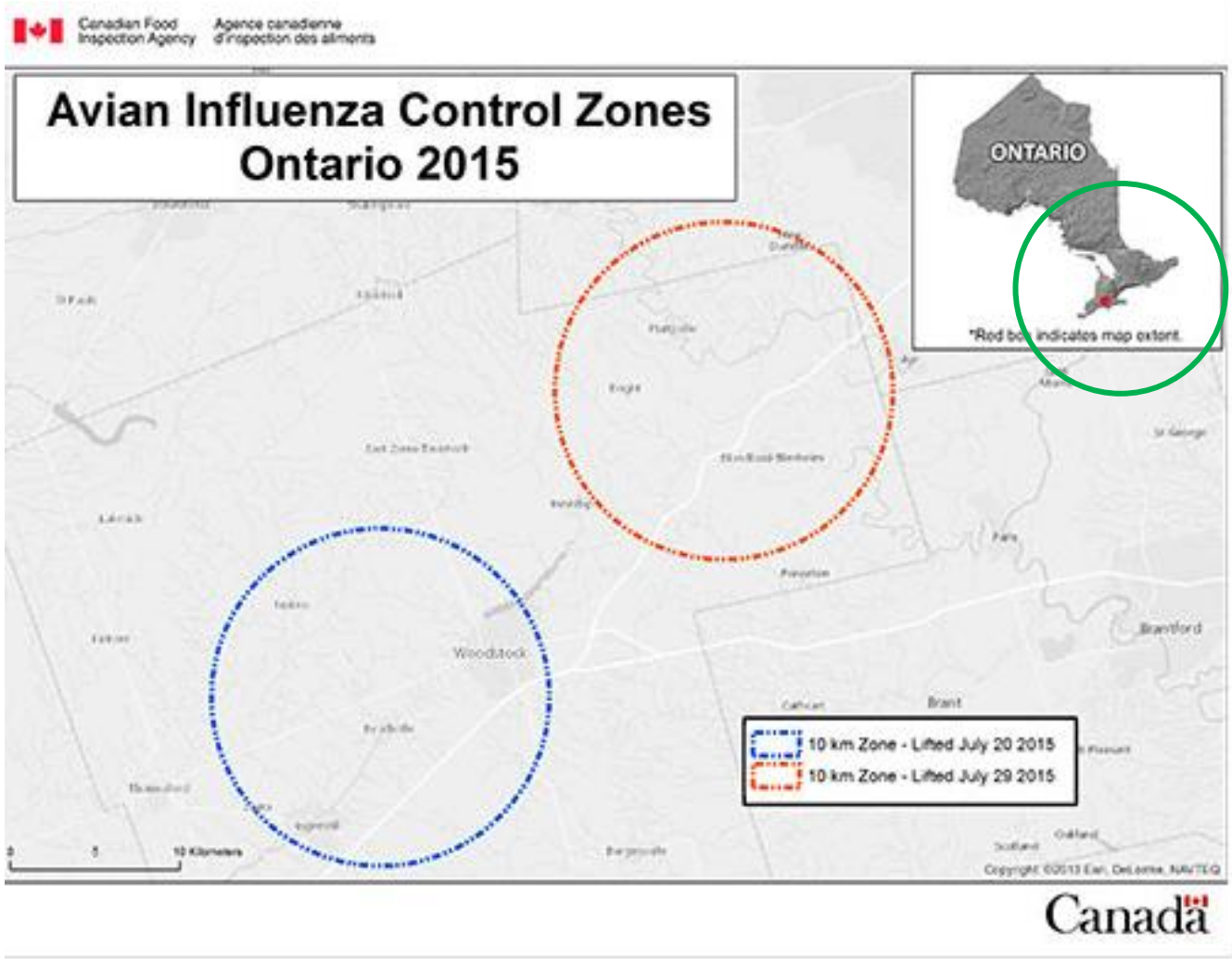
Last updated Wednesday, Apr. 08, 2015 7:19PM EDT

0 Comments 3 3 0 G+1 2 AA

A bird flu outbreak on an Ontario turkey farm is caused by the same virus that has triggered outbreaks in British Columbia and nine U.S. states since late last year, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced Wednesday.

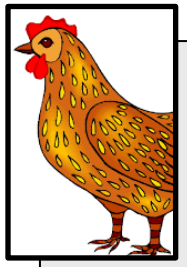
- Highly pathogenic AI (H5N2)
- Confirmed on 3 farms
  - April 7, 18, 25 2015
- All located in Oxford County
- 2 Commercial turkey farms and a broiler breeder farm
- **Birds lost: 79, 780**
- Estimated economic impact: **undetermined**

www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontario-bird-flu-outbreak-caused-by-same-h5n2-virus-that-hit-bc-in-december/article23848535/



http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/ai/2015-investigation-ontario/ontario-2015/eng/1429917904654/1429918780666

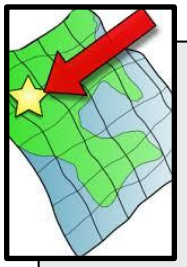
OMAFRA's Activities



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

****Photo credits available upon request**

Thank you