



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries

Avian Influenza Update

Open Cabinet Presentation
May 31, 2004

Three Difficult Months

February - April

Infected flocks found.

April 5

CFIA to destroy all in Fraser Valley.

April 16

PEP called in.

May 31

42 infected commercial sites,
11 backyard flocks depopulated.

Current Status

Infected flocks:

- 42 commercial premises
- 11 backyard

Total infected birds: 1.3 million

Non-infected birds
destroyed/marketed: 16.0 million

Total disposed: 17.3 million

Remaining: 1.6 million

Decontaminated: 7 of 42
commercial
sites

Getting Back to Business

- Cleaning and disinfection under way
- Restock 21 days after last infected farm cleaned and disinfected
 - Broilers (meat) = 8 weeks
 - Layers (eggs) = 21 weeks
- 6 months international trade
- 18-24 months to return to “normal”

Mitigating Economic Damage

- Raw product supply to egg graders and chicken processors
- Work sharing (plants & feed mills)
- Specialty operations

Impacts

Industry value: \$850 million (retail)
\$370 million (farmgate)

Employees:

About 1,500 on-farm

About 2,300 in processing plants

Initial layoffs: 1,720 (est)

**Wages lost: Almost \$5 million
(monthly)**

Challenges Ahead

- Health of Animals Act compensation (CFIA)
- Federal/provincial assistance program (CAIS)
- Assist individual specialty producers (CAIS)
- Reinforce biosecurity
- Continue surveillance
- Report back