



June 27, 2006

File: 0295-20/BIOSECURITY

**DELIVERED BY EMAIL**

Honourable Pat Bell  
Minister of Agriculture and Lands  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

**IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF MANDATORY BIOSECURITY STANDARDS BY COMMODITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) has been observing and assisting in the discussions between the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (Ministry), the commodity boards and commissions (boards) and the British Columbia Poultry Association (BCPA) concerning the development, implementation and enforcement of mandatory biosecurity standards by the boards.

Although there have been difficulties encountered in this process, BCFIRB notes that recent meetings demonstrate the significant progress the Ministry, the boards, the BCPA and the industry have made with respect to this important matter. The various aspects of this issue will continue to require a collaborative effort from all concerned; including BCFIRB.

On May 27, 2006, the BC Poultry on-Farm Biosecurity Program published proposed mandatory biosecurity standards and interpretive guidelines for the regulated poultry industry. These should be finalized by mid-July 2006. As the boards will subsequently be moving to incorporate the finalized standards into their orders, BCFIRB believes it would be useful at this time to identify three matters related to effectively addressing this issue.

First, BCFIRB has decided that any orders ultimately issued by the commodity boards will require supervisory approval of BCFIRB. This will ensure consistency, and will enable BCFIRB to play a proactive role throughout the process of developing the orders.

Second, while BCFIRB is satisfied that that the boards have authority to embark on the process of drafting standards into their orders, we wish to notify you now that, depending on the nature or scope of matters to be addressed as this work proceeds, legal issues may arise that require

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British Columbia  
Farm Industry Review Board

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further legislative or regulatory support. We appreciate your Ministry's commitment to providing such support and assistance if and as such issues arise.

Finally, I confirm that it is our intention to work with the boards to ensure that effective and consistent orders are put in place by each board so as to meet the objective of having mandatory biosecurity measures in place by early 2007.

BCFIRB would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding this implementation process.

Yours truly,



Richard Bullock  
Chair

pc: Larry Pedersen, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Daphne Stancil, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Strategy, Policy and Legislation  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Harvey Sasaki, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Risk Management and Competitiveness  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Bruce Cook, Chair  
British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Commission

Ron Kilmury, Chair  
British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board

David Taylor, Chair  
British Columbia Egg Marketing Board

Ron Charles, Chair  
British Columbia Turkey Marketing Board

Ray Nickel, President  
British Columbia Poultry Association