



October 26, 2020

Delivered by Email: FIRB AGRI:EX <FIRB@gov.bc.ca>

Peter Donkers
Chair
BC Farm Industry Review Board

Dear Peter:

BC CHICKEN MARKETING BOARD MINIMUM LIVE PRICE FORMULA FOR A-166

The British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board (the “Chicken Board”) appreciates the expedited decisions regarding issues affecting the Live Price Formula for Mainstream Chicken. The Chicken Board respects that the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board Supervisory Panel’s (the “Panel”) requires more time to consider the matter of the breeder processing age change in order to determine whether the British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Commission’s (the “Commission”) decision is in compliance with the July 13, 2020 Panel directive.

The Chicken Board would like to provide clarity regarding the statement “the Panel is unclear as to why the Chicken Board urgently requires the Panel’s determination ... If the matter was critical to the Chicken Board’s A-166 decision the panel expects the Chicken Board would have raised the matter with the Commission and the panel prior to the Chicken Board’s originally scheduled Friday, October 23, 2020 pricing meeting.”

The timing of Commission’s notification of the proposed change to the processing age and their written decisions did not provide sufficient time for prior notification of the Panel. The following represents the timeline for the Chicken Board to consider Commission’s decision.

- Friday, October 16, 2020 – The Chicken Board was made aware of the request by the British Columbia Egg Hatchery Association (the “BCEHA”) for the reduction in processing age when the Commission notified the Pricing and Production Advisory Committee (the “PPAC”) of the request and to schedule a conference call on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.
- Tuesday, October 20, 2020 – The Chicken Board representative participated in the PPAC call that morning. The Commission met later that day.
- Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – The Commission issued its decision to reduce the processing age with the official notification referencing that “a more detailed rationale to follow this notice”.
- Friday, October 23, 2020 – The Commission issued the detailed rationale; the same day as the Chicken Board pricing meeting and the Review Panel meeting.

Upon receipt of the initial notice of the BCEHA request, the Chicken Board made enquiries to the Commission Chair and Executive Director asking for their interpretation as to whether a decision to reduce the processing age was in conflict with the July 13, 2020 Panel directive. The response received was per the last paragraph of the October 23, 2020 Processing Date Change Rationale.



Given that the Chicken Board needed to receive the Commission's decision and subsequently receive and review the rationale for the decision; the Panel conference call was the first opportunity for the Chicken Board to raise the matter with the Panel.

The urgency in requesting Panel consideration is that the reduction in processing age results in an increase in the chick price paid by growers, which in turn increases the chick differential over Ontario and increases the live price. The increase in live price will be greater than the live price that would have resulted from maintaining a 56 week processing age. As such, the Commission's decision to reduce the processing age represents a change in the pricing structure.

The Chicken Board looks forward to the Panel's pending decision regarding whether or not the Commission in making a decision to change the processing age was in compliance with the Panel's July 13, 2020 directive.

Yours truly,

Harvey Sasaki
Chair
British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board

c.c.

Jim Collins
Stephanie Nelson
Craig Evans
Jennifer Curtis
Art Deruiter
Ernie Silveri
Wendy Holm
Bill Vanderspek