

FARMER INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT) DISEASE ADVISORY **Georgina Township, York County**

Sept 26, 2017

On behalf of the four feather boards, the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) is issuing an ILT Disease advisory to all poultry farms and small flock growers in and around the Township of Georgina in northern part of York County.

FBCC has been alerted by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) that a chicken from a flock of exotic layer birds has tested positive for Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT). The lab submission came through the *Small Flock Surveillance Project* administered by OMAFRA and the University of Guelph. OMAFRA staff are working with the flock owner and her veterinarian to ensure proper biosecurity and disease control measures are implemented.

Please reinforce your biosecurity protocols including monitoring the movement of birds, people and equipment onto and off of your farm in the interest of flock health. Should you suspect any signs of health concerns in your flock, please contact your veterinarian as well as your Board. ILT is a serious contagious disease caused by a respiratory virus primarily in laying hens and chickens. Signs to look out for include: increased mortality, noisy breathing, head-shaking, off feed, decreased egg production, inactivity, ruffled feathers and conjunctivitis.

Please advise any visitors to your premises of your biosecurity protocols because of this situation and keep a logbook of movement in relation to your farm. Minimize visits to other poultry production sites, avoid exchanging equipment with other poultry production sites or ensure that it is washed and disinfected. Ensure all personnel in contact with birds wear boots, protective suits, head coverings and gloves/handwashing. Ensure adequate control of vermin and wild birds.

Further biosecurity information for small flock growers is available at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/bird-health-basics/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>

We anticipate this advisory to remain in place until early November. A stand down advisory will be considered at that time. Any updates will be provided through www.fbcc.ca

