

FARMER INFECTIOUS LARYNGOTRACHEITIS (ILT) DISEASE ADVISORY Grey County

May 8, 2017

On behalf of the four feather boards, the Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) is issuing an ILT Disease advisory to all commercial farms and small flock growers in Grey County.

FBCC has been alerted by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) that a bird from a small backyard chicken flock in Grey County has tested positive for Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT). The bird was 5.5 weeks old and was purchased 2 weeks ago from local sources.

The lab submission came through the *Small Flock Surveillance Project* administered by OMAFRA and the University of Guelph. OMAFRA staff are providing advice to the small flock owner and his 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 the 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 mid June. A stand down advisory will be issued at that time. Any updates will be provided through www.fbcc.ca

