

## Issue 59 March 2022

### OLPC 2022 Membership Meetings

- April 22, 2022
- June 17, 2022
- August 12, 2022 – shortened agenda
- October 14, 2022
- December 16, 2022

### Rabies Numbers in Canada for 2021

In 2021, there were 2,443 samples submitted in 2021 for rabies testing from across Canada. Nationally, 105 samples tested positive. Ontario accounted for 1,325 samples of which 42 tested positive. The breakdown from which species the positive samples were taken are as follows:

	Can.	Ont.
Arctic fox	4	
Bat	51	27
Bovine	2	
Caprine	1	
Cat	2	
Dog	6	1
Llama	1	
Raccoon	2	2
Red fox	9	
Skunk	27	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>42</b>

To the end of February, there was just one positive rabies case reported in Ontario in a dog.

### Ag Mental Health Resources

- The In the Know mental health program developed from Andria Jones Bitton's work at the University of Guelph is now available and being delivered by the Canadian Mental Health Association. It is being offered in Ontario, PEI, Nova Scotia, BC, Alberta and Manitoba – [www.ajbresearch.com](http://www.ajbresearch.com),
- Mental Health First Aid [www.mhfa.ca](http://www.mhfa.ca) (not agriculture specific)
- ConnexOntario, 24/7 healthcare services information, <https://www.connexontario.ca/en-ca/>, 1-866-531-2600 (not agriculture specific)
- Do More Ag Foundation list of

### Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Found in Ontario

As of April 6, 2022, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed the presence of HPAI, subtype H5N1, in the following 10 areas in Ontario:

- April 6, 2022 – City of Markham, Ontario (poultry flock)
- April 6, 2022 – Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Ontario (poultry flock)
- April 5, 2022 – Prince Edward County, Ontario (backyard flock)
- April 5, 2022 – City of Markham, Ontario (poultry flock)
- April 4, 2022 – Township of Centre Wellington, Ontario (poultry flock)
- April 2, 2022 – Township of Selwyn, Ontario (backyard flock)
- March 31, 2022 – Township of Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation (backyard flock)
- March 30, 2022 – Township of Woolwich (poultry flock)
- March 28, 2022 – Township of Zorra (poultry flock)
- March 27, 2022 – Township of Guelph/Eramosa (poultry flock)

Three sites have also been confirmed in Alberta:

- April 6, 2022 – Mountain View County, Alberta (poultry flock)
- April 6, 2022 – Mountain View County, Alberta (poultry flock)
- April 6, 2022 – Ponoka County (poultry flock)

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador also have ongoing or concluded Avian influenza sites although no new detections since March.

The complete list of detections and general information on Avian influenza can be found [here](#)

### Emergency Transit of Regulated Animals

The CFIA and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service officially agreed to implement an Emergency Transit Policy for Regulated Animals. The policy makes it easier and faster to evacuate regulated animals, such as livestock, birds, pets, and companion animals, across the border during emergencies such as flooding, forest fires, extreme weather conditions or disasters, or when routine transportation routes are impaired without feasible alternatives. Animals transiting through the other country during an emergency will be instructed when and where they will have to re-enter their country of origin.

Under the joint policy, the country declaring an emergency will inspect animals, apply official seals to transport conveyances, and issue a simplified export health certificate either at the port(s) of exit by an official veterinarian or at the premises of origin by an accredited veterinarian or official veterinarian. You can read the full statement [here](#).

### Blastomycosis

Constance Lake First Nation, a community of over 900 residents, declared a state of emergency in November after probable cases of blastomycosis and three deaths came to light.

Blastomycosis is typically caused by a fungus that grows in moist soil, leaves and rotting wood. Symptoms can range from a mild cough that does not go away to serious breathing problems. Some people may not show any symptoms, while

therapists [www.domore.ag/](http://www.domore.ag/)

- Emergency Response Model for Mental Health During Agricultural Crises – [www.ajbresearch.com/resources](http://www.ajbresearch.com/resources)
- Farmer Wellness Initiative
  - 1-866-267-6255
  - 24/7, 365 days, English and French
  - four free counselling sessions for Ontario farmers and families
  - Developed by Canadian Mental Health Association (Ontario Division) in partnership with OFA
  - Service is provided by Life Works

others may develop a long-term form of pneumonia.

As of February, there were 26 active cases, 134 under investigation, three probable cases and four deaths. People and dogs can contract it but it is not transmissible back and forth. Outbreaks are rare. OAHN published a factsheet for dog owners available at <https://www.oahn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Blasto-Infosheet-Format-vF.pdf>

#### **Our Mission**

*Provide a forum to facilitate the development and coordination of an Ontario strategy to deal with foreign animal disease and other transmissible livestock and poultry diseases.*