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# *Information for Veterinarians*

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## **ENHANCED AVIAN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR COMMERCIAL POULTRY IN CANADA**

The Canadian Notifiable Avian Influenza Surveillance System (CanNAISS), is being developed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments and poultry industry representatives. It is an enhanced surveillance system to detect notifiable avian influenza (NAI) in commercial poultry flocks in Canada. When fully implemented, CanNAISS will include a number of components, including on-farm, pre-slaughter surveillance.

The CanNAISS has been designed to meet the current NAI guidelines from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and new trade requirements from the European Union (EU) that take effect in January 2009. NAI is defined by the OIE as all avian influenza type A viruses with high pathogenicity and all H5 and H7 subtypes with high or low pathogenicity. CanNAISS will enhance Canada's on-going surveillance program and provide information about NAI viruses in Canada's domestic poultry flocks that will be required for Canadian poultry producers and processors to continue doing business internationally.

The CanNAISS is one of a number of domestic and international initiatives that have already been implemented by the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, as well as Canadian poultry producers, to prevent, detect, and eliminate H5 and H7 subtypes of NAI in Canada's domestic poultry flock.

National and provincial veterinary organizations and poultry health veterinarians in particular will have a role to play in this surveillance initiative. For the pre-slaughter component, commercial poultry flocks at the end of the production cycle and from selected producers will need to be tested for the presence of NAI before they move to processing plants. Sample collection will begin to be taken in July 2008. The samples will be shipped to a CFIA laboratory for testing. The pre-slaughter surveillance component will be phased in across federally inspected processing plants and the various commercial poultry sectors.

It is expected that each producer will contact his or her usual private veterinarian (their flock veterinarian) to arrange for the collection of the samples. The CFIA will assume the costs for private veterinarians related to mileage to and from the farm, blood collection, and testing.

In order to establish a list of private veterinarians interested in participating in this project, the CFIA invites those veterinarians who are working within the poultry sector, on a regular basis or not, to contact us. This will also assist the CFIA in identifying other interested veterinarians who could perform sampling for poultry producers who do not have a regular veterinarian, or for those whose regular veterinarian is not available.

If you are interested in the project and are available to assist in sample collection, please contact the CFIA Area Coordinator for your region for more details about the project, and in particular:

- Information on the pre-slaughter component
- Roles and responsibilities of participants, including private veterinarians
- Sampling procedures
- On farm biosecurity measures
- Administrative information such as the terms of the contract, etc.

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Information on CanNAISS also available on the CFIA website at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2008/20080606e.shtml>

**and**

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/surv/survqueste.shtml>