

Disease Surveillance in Non-commercial Poultry Flocks

Have you ever had birds become sick/die but didn't know why?

The *University of Guelph* and *OMAFRA*, through the *Animal Health Laboratory (AHL)* and the *Ontario Animal Health Network*, are conducting a baseline surveillance study to determine the most common infectious diseases found in small flocks in Ontario.



Who is eligible to participate?

1. Any non-quota, non-commercial poultry owner within Ontario.

What is involved?

1. Submit sick/dead birds to the AHL for postmortem analysis and diagnostic testing at a greatly discounted cost (\$25). Admissible species include chickens, turkeys, game fowl, geese, and ducks.
2. Submissions will be accepted by the AHL, Kemptville & Guelph, from Thurs., Oct 1, 2015 to Fri., Sept 29, 2017.
3. **Submissions must be made through your veterinarian.**
4. Completion of a **consent form** and a **brief questionnaire** about husbandry and biosecurity. Estimated time for completion of the questionnaire is 15'.

Why is this study important?

This study will allow you to determine the infectious agents (viruses, bacteria, and parasites) that your flock is carrying, including those that can be harmful to you and your family (e.g. *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*), and will provide baseline information about the main pathogens present in non-commercial flocks in Ontario. The questionnaire will help researchers understand the most common husbandry and biosecurity practices used by non-commercial flock owners. This knowledge will be used to develop educational tools with the goal of improving the health and welfare of non-quota, non-commercial flocks.

Funds for this project are provided by the AHL and the OMAFRA-U of G partnership program.

Further details are available at <http://phrn.net/dis-surveillance-dr-susta-lab/> or

http://www.guelphlabservices.com/AHL/Poultry_Flock_Disease.aspx.

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