

**UPDATE ON AN OUTBREAK OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (H7N3)
IN THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Statement by Canada at the meeting of 24-25 June 2008

The following communication, received on 10 July 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Canada.

1. At the October 2007 SPS Committee meeting, Canada reported on an outbreak of highly pathogenic H7N3 avian influenza, which was detected on one single farm in the Canadian Province of Saskatchewan.
2. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency moved swiftly to implement movement controls, humanely depopulate the birds on the infected farm, and clean and disinfect the premises. A targeted surveillance program was also implemented.
3. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's actions were consistent with OIE recommendations and guidelines. Canada's measures were drawn from its practical experience in previous avian influenza detections and training exercises.
4. In April 2008, Canada officially notified the OIE that Canada had regained status as free of Notifiable Avian Influenza. More than ninety days had passed following the cleaning and disinfection activities on the affected farm, and no further cases were detected during surveillance.
5. Canada's final report on the outbreak is available on the OIE web site.
6. Also on Notifiable Avian Influenza, earlier this month, Canada announced a new Canadian Notifiable Avian Influenza Surveillance System (CanNAISS). The system has been designed in line with OIE guidelines and will provide information about notifiable avian influenza viruses in Canada's domestic poultry flocks that will be required for Canadian poultry farmers and processors to participate in international trade.
7. Complete information on Canada's Avian Influenza surveillance and control program is available on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's web site at www.inspection.gc.ca
8. With these developments, Canada renews its calls on fellow WTO Members who continue to restrict poultry and poultry products from Saskatchewan or from all of Canada.

9. Canada asks these Members to review and remove their remaining trade restrictions due to avian influenza, particularly now that the final report from the 2007 Saskatchewan outbreak is publicly available, and in light of Canada's regained disease-free status and its new enhanced poultry surveillance program.

10. Canada also takes this opportunity to once again thank those Members who quickly regionalized Canada following last September's outbreak, as well as those who have removed remaining trade restrictions since Canada regained disease-free status.
