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On red alert

Avian influenza hits BC farm

PETER MITHAM

ENDERBY – A broiler farm in the North Okanagan has been depopulated following the positive identification of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

Preliminary tests at a lab in Burnaby returned positive results, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency lab in Winnipeg confirmed the disease on April 13.

“CFIA is leading the investigation and response, with provincial support for testing, mapping, surveillance and disposal,” says BC Agriculture Minister Lana


See DOMESTIC on next page ↪



Greening up

Despite lower attendance, producers and the public took the chance to walk the trade show floor at Tradex as the Pacific Agriculture Show returned in-person for the first time since 2020 on March 31-April 2. The lifting of public health restrictions and the return of in-person social activities is a bright spot as summer approaches. MYRNA STARK LEADER

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Ag show pivots to in-person

PETER MITHAM

ABBOTSFORD – Good weather and the lingering effects of COVID-19 put a damper on attendance at this year’s Pacific Agriculture Show, but all signs point to another successful year for the province’s biggest farm show.

“Tradex was completely full of the latest big shiny machines and ag equipment and everyone was happy to be back to an in-person show,” says show organizer Jim Shepard. “The quality of

attendees was excellent and lots of business and deals were taking place.”

But he says attendance was “noticeably down” from past shows, which typically draw 7,500 visitors.

Shepard credited this to the show being postponed until March, when many growers are preparing in earnest for the new season, combined with good weather that encouraged them to be in the field.

The ongoing proof of vaccination requirement also discouraged some attendees,

he adds, but it wasn’t the only pandemic-related impact.


The long shut-down of events has left many hospitality businesses scrambling to staff up, and Tradex was no exception.

“Unable to get staff for the food concessions, they had food trucks out the back,” he says, though that turned into a boon for attendees who had a diverse set of meal choices and could socialize outdoors under sunny skies.

The education program also

SEE HYBRID on next page ↪

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