



BC Sustainable Poultry Farming Group (SPFG)

Status Summary for the October 6, 2020 SPFG Committee Call

Three research proposals was reviewed:

1. 2020-03 - *Managing extreme heat report* – Climate Action Initiative
 - The report reviewed options for poultry producers to manage extreme heat events. The Climate Action Initiative was looking for feedback from the SPFG on possible future direction.
 - The committee identified two possible areas of work. Possibly a project to look at removing hot air from the top of barns or barn peripheries. Also, a factsheet on managing extreme temperatures that lists products/methods and contacts.
2. 2020-04 - *Manure Dryer at Seabreeze Farm*
 - Seabreeze Farm is working on a funding application to IAF for a belt dryer. This dryer, from Dorset Green Machine in the Netherlands, is widely used in Europe to dry all types of manure, including dairy, hog and poultry. Belt dryers enable farmers to dry manure. This drying process sterilizes manure, makes handling and storage easier and less costly, and reduces the weight of manure; significantly reducing the cost to transport outside of nutrient-rich areas. It is proven technology in Europe. However, it doesn't exist in BC, or even Canada. IAF does provide funding for 'proving' technology. Their requirement is that it has to be new to BC and provide benefit to the BC ag sector.
 - SPFG provided a letter of support for the project.
3. 2020-05 – *Possible AAFC study - potentially pathogenic microorganisms being transported from livestock operations to neighbouring food crops*
 - In the Fraser Valley, there are many poultry premises operating in close proximity to berry fields. The risk of potentially pathogenic microorganisms being transported from livestock operations to neighbouring food crops is not well characterized. There is concern that dust from livestock operations could cause food safety concerns on neighboring crops. This proposed work will build on previous work done by the SPFG that examined the potential of vegetative buffers to control dust.
 - The project is in early concept stage; SPFG will work with the researcher as she designs the project.

Updates on other SPFG projects:

1. 2016-06 - *Public Trust*
 - Becky continues to make progress despite Covid restrictions; several virtual events have been held. BCAC is not charging levies to members this year for the project due to financial hardship caused by Covid. This will mean \$12,000 less funding will be required for this project this year.
2. 2018-05 – *Aerobic digestion of spent hen hydrolysate*
 - The researcher has secured matching funding, so the project should start soon.
3. 2020-01 - Feasibility study on a poultry-specific AD
 - Due to budget constraints, it is on hold until next year. SPFG will take the project out of this year's funding and move the project to 2021 funding.
4. 2020-02 - The BC Ag Industry Symbiosis Centre
 - They are still waiting for the funding under the Stimulus package. Nearly \$4M worth of equipment has been moved to the EcoDairy. Commissioning is underway.

The next SPFG meeting will be scheduled as required.