



CANADIAN POULTRY CONSULTANTS NEWSLETTER



November 12, 2025

PREPARING FOR WINTER

How does the winter affect your birds?

- **Cooler weather**
 - Lowering ventilation to conserve heat can trap harmful gases (ammonia & CO₂), generate dust and increase relative humidity.
 - Poor ventilation can lead to respiratory issues and increased incidents of ascites and E. coli infections, and affect overall productivity.
- **Rainy season**
 - More rain → increase in humidity → higher moisture levels in the barn
 - Moisture reduces litter quality
 - Wet litter is less absorbent, increases ammonia levels and may cause footpad erosion (may lead to bacterial arthritis), and promote coccidiosis in growing birds.
- **Short daylength**
 - Light tight barns rely on controlled lighting programs
 - Winter dreariness can directly affect farm workers, leading to reduced productivity and absenteeism.

What can you do?

- **Monitor & Correct ventilation**
 - GOAL: run ventilation at lowest rate required to remove excess moisture (ammonia and CO₂) while conserving heat.
 - Warm air moving over the birds and litter, has a higher water removal capacity (ensure good air mixing)
- **Litter treatments**
 - Can be added before placement, or while birds are in the barn.
 - First step: Poultry mineral such as PLT
 - Controls ammonia, reduces pathogens, & reduces footpad damage (make a habit of inspecting footpads).
 - Second step: litter probiotic such as ELT
 - Populates litter with beneficial bacteria to out compete pathogenic bacteria
- **Vaccinate** against E. coli
- **Supplement** with a probiotic (3 day treatment).
- **Recognize**, encourage and reward your farm workers. It can go a long way.

Contact Canadian Poultry Consultants today to find out how we can help protect your flock this winter!

30325 Canary Court
Abbotsford, BC V4X 2N4

Main office: 604-854-6600
After hours emergency: 604-309-1681



INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER

**DR. MARK-ANTHONY
MURPHY**



Mark-Anthony grew up in South Africa, where his interest in farming and animal health started early. He spent much of his time working with poultry and beef producers, learning the value of good stockmanship, practical problem-solving, and keeping flocks and herds healthy through strong management and biosecurity.

He graduated as a veterinarian from the University of Pretoria, and worked with broiler breeders, hatcheries, and beef farms, helping farmers improve production, vaccination programs, and animal welfare. This also involved time in public veterinary work, supporting food safety and disease control for both farms and processing plants.

Mark-Anthony recently moved to British Columbia with his wife, who is also a veterinarian. As a poultry veterinarian, he's looking forward to getting to know B.C. farmers, sharing ideas, and working together to keep their flocks healthy and productive. When he's not on the farm, he enjoys being outdoors and exploring BC's countryside.

clientcare@canadianpoultry.ca
Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5pm