

April 5, 2004



**Canadian Egg Marketing Agency
Statement on Ministerial Announcement to Depopulate All
Birds in B.C. Fraser Valley**

Ottawa, April 5, 2004 – The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA) supports today’s announcement by Minister Bob Speller and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regarding a full depopulation of commercial poultry flocks and backyard flocks in British Columbia’s Fraser Valley to control the avian influenza outbreak.

“This was undoubtedly a difficult but necessary decision,” said CEMA Chairman Laurent Souligny. “CEMA is examining several options to ensure that consumers in all of British Columbia continue to be supplied with eggs.”

The primary goal in responding to avian influenza is to protect poultry in Canada by stamping out the virus in the Abbotsford area of British Columbia. This particular virus is very contagious in poultry and farmers need to continue to be very diligent about restricting visitors on their farms. CEMA will remain active communicating any new CFIA directives to egg farmers in the Fraser Valley.

Consumers can rest assured that the eggs on grocery store shelves are safe. This avian influenza is a poultry disease and CFIA stated that the risk to the general population remains low. Eggs in British Columbia retail stores are produced and marketed according to the government’s directives which include the washing and grading of eggs at federally registered grading stations.

The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency promotes and markets eggs throughout Canada and represents 1,100 regulated egg producers in all provinces and the Northwest Territories.

1501 – 112, rue Kent St.

Ottawa, Ontario

K1P 5P2

-30-

☎ (613) 238-2514

☎ (613) 238-1967

✉ info@canadaegg.ca

✉ info@oeufcanada.ca

www.canadaegg.ca

www.oeufcanada.ca

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bernadette Cox
(613) 238-2514 ext. 235
(613) 290-8102