

## **Organic Poultry Training Survey Results - Feb 10, 2008**

- **Twelve** responses were received.
- None who participated were non-organic commercial producers, a few were organic commercial producers, while some participants felt they were both commercial and hobby scale. Some said they were in the process of moving from non-organic to organic, or from hobby to commercial scale. One person added "experience non-medicated, free range" as a production category. ***Point to learn from these results, the most of the people who participated were within the organic sector, and most dabble in some type of poultry production but clarity is needed on what is difference between commercial versus hobby scale production.***
- **Top three** types of production the respondents were interested in **learning** more about: ***Turkeys, Chicken Meat and then Chicken Eggs***
- **100%** were **aware of quota** requirements, but some want more information.
- **All** participants were aware of the **Meat Inspection Act**, **half** were aware of the **Egg Grading Regulations**, **almost half** were aware of the **Environmental Management Act**, with **a few** aware of the **Health of Animals Act**, less the Feeds and Fertilizer Act and the least familiar Act being the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act. ***It is apparent from these results there are some information gaps with regards to Regulations needs to be filled.***
- A **production manual** was the **most favoured** learning methodology selected, with online material and workshops tied for second. **Least preferred** methods were **webinars** and conference calls. Some participants identified workshops as their least preferred method of delivery due to their location in reference to the lower mainland. Therefore **workshops probably would have been the number choice amongst those surveyed if they had felt workshops would be locally available to them.**

### **Comments received from Survey participants (in no significant order)**

1. Realistically, we are well experienced in the types of production issues with raising free-range poultry on a small scale although we can always learn more. I'm curious about such a course given that there are relatively few small scale processors for poultry and as non-quota producers, can only raise 200/year. I am most interested in what COABC is doing to bring pressure to bear on the CMB to raise the non-quota limit to something more economically viable like 2,000 as Alberta has.
2. Can you define commercial & hobby? How many egg's or kgs? Or anything that generates revenue? (Rochelle sent a response Dec 18, 2007).
3. Our current biggest issue is with slaughter, and the lack of availability of it. We desperately need our mobile slaughterhouse to be back in operation. We are thinking of starting a co-op to buy the John's mobile unit and upgrade it, but it's going to take a lot of work and people. Is there any sort of support (both financial and organizational) for this sort of thing? We also need more information and resources on making feed - the current commercial organic feed sources are too expensive to make chickens a serious proposition, especially when there are other sources of raw ingredients.
4. This was our first year in organics, so are learning the hard way. We did all natural, non-medicated before. Any information is welcome.
5. I have raised & marketed organic chickens & eggs for years but am looking for ways to improve production and I would like to participate in workshops & tours but living in Powell River makes those options difficult.
6. A yearly update on regulation would be helpful
7. I am not organic but will be starting this process this year. I would also want organic free range. Hope a course proceeds. I am very interested not in hundreds of thousands but 1,000-5,000 birds.