

5th Floor  
1 Stone Road West  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2  
Tel: 519 826-4367  
Fax: 519 826-4375

5<sup>e</sup> étage  
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Télec. : 519 826-4375

## Food Inspection Branch

June 25, 2008

To: Operators of Provincially Licensed Poultry Slaughter Plants

### **Subject: Slaughter of pigeons for human consumption in provincially licensed meat plants**

As you may be aware, a pigeon supplier in Ontario may be in financial difficulties. Consequently, there may be a number of producers without a market for their birds and you may see an increase in the number of requests for slaughter of pigeons at your plant.

In the interests of promoting food safety, the Food Inspection Branch is implementing a testing program to monitor antibiotics and other veterinary drug residues in pigeons slaughtered for the purpose of human consumption. This testing program will be reviewed as it unfolds, but take notice that abattoirs may be required to hold lots pending test results. If this becomes a requirement, you will be notified by your area manager prior to implementation.

Please find attached a Pigeon Flock Data Sheet, which is also available on OMAFRA's website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/new/pigeon.htm>. Before pigeons are slaughtered for the purpose of human consumption, this form must be completed in full by the producer. Please ensure producers are aware of the requirement to complete and submit the Pigeon Flock Data Sheet by fax to Mike Eastment, Residue Control Officer, OMAFRA Meat Inspection Operations, at (519) 826-4691 at least three business days prior to transportation of the birds to an abattoir. It must also accompany the birds to the abattoir where it shall be delivered to a provincial inspector. Information on this form includes:

- Owner Information – name of producer, address and contact information;
- Flock Size (total birds in flock);
- Shipment Size (total birds in the shipment);
- Feed Supplier(s) – Company name of feed supplier;
- Medications – Any medications or medicated feeds that have been administered to the birds;
- Withdrawal – The date(s) that a withdrawal period(s) commenced for each medication that has been administered to the birds. Note that withdrawal times for all administered veterinary drugs must be met before bringing the birds for slaughter;



- Certification – A certification that all relevant withdrawal times have been met, and that the birds are free of antibiotic residues and other substances defined under ‘contaminated’ in O. Reg 31/05.

If the Pigeon Flock Data Sheets are not completed by producers and delivered to OMAFRA in the prescribed manner, slaughter for the purpose of human consumption may not be permitted.

If you have any questions, please contact your Area Manager.

Yours truly,

Lee-Ann Walker  
General Manager  
Meat Inspection Program