



# Audit at a glance

## Why we did this audit

- In recent years, B.C. poultry and livestock farms have experienced increased threats from animal disease, such as bird flu, and other emergencies, like wildfires and floods.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, through the Premises Identification (ID) program, collects information to help animal health officials and emergency responders identify the types and number of animals under threat, where they're located, and who to contact.
- Since July 2022, under the Premises Identification Regulation, people responsible for poultry and livestock have been required to enrol in the program either directly or through their producer organization.

## Objective

To determine whether the Ministry of Agriculture and Food implemented the BC Premises Identification program to provide reliable information to those responsible for protecting poultry and livestock from animal disease and other emergencies (e.g., wildfires and floods).

### Audit period:

July 1, 2022 – February 28, 2025

## Conclusion

We concluded that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food hadn't implemented the BC Premises Identification program in a way that provided reliable information to those responsible for protecting poultry and livestock from animal disease and other emergencies (e.g., wildfires and floods).

The ministry has accepted all seven recommendations we made focused on increasing program registration, addressing data reliability, and improving guidance to staff about sharing information.

## What we found

### The ministry lacked the information needed to identify gaps in program registration

- Registration in the Premises ID program became mandatory on July 1, 2022.
- Not all poultry and livestock premises have been registered with the program.
- Because of insufficient information, the ministry couldn't determine the gap between current registrants and the total number of premises that should be registered.
- The ministry lacked information to determine registration gaps for the different types of owners and operators.

### Recommendation 1

### The ministry didn't implement targeted activities to increase registration

- Targeted outreach couldn't be done because the ministry hadn't adequately identified which owners and operators to prioritize.
- General outreach material, outlining the mandatory registration requirement, was distributed.

### Recommendation 2

## Audit at a glance *(continued)*

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### **The ministry lacked adequate processes to ensure the reliability of Premises ID information**

- The online registration system for owners and operators captured most of the information required by the Premises Identification Regulation.
- The ministry didn't ensure producer organizations provided all information required by the regulation.
- Ministry processes didn't ensure information was accurate or up to date.
- Ministry staff were able to check the accuracy of some of the information, but checks weren't scheduled or recorded.

#### **Recommendation 3, 4, 5, and 6**

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### **The ministry lacked adequate guidance for staff about sharing Premises ID information**

- The *Animal Health Act* and Premises Identification Regulation allow the ministry to share Premises ID information to protect animal health, administer a traceability program, and support emergency planning and response.
- The ministry didn't have adequate guidance for staff that documented when, and with whom, information could be shared.
- The ministry stated it was drafting new guidance about what information can be shared to support emergency preparedness and planning.

#### **Recommendation 7**

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