



BC Farm Industry Review Board

February 26, 2025

File: 1680-04/BHEC

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

Bill Vanderspek
Chair
Broiler Hatching Egg Commission
#210 - 1848 McCallum Rd Abbotsford BC V2S 0H9

Dear Chair Vanderspek,

BRITISH COLUMBIA BROILER HATCHING EGG COMMISSION RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF ELECTED COMMISSION MEMBERS— APPROVAL

Under the British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Scheme, s. 4(2), election rules and procedures do not come into effect until approved by the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB).

I am appointed by the Chair of the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) as a one-person panel to consider, and if appropriate, approve the Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (Commission) Rules and Procedures for the Election of Elected Commission Members (Election Rules).

Submission

On December 6, 2024, the Commission submitted their reviewed Election Rules with the major change, being the removal of paper ballots and moving to digital only voting. Amendments to achieve this change include:

- Par. 9 – Requiring producers to acknowledge at the time of licence that they will be sent their ballot and election materials by email,
- Par. 16(c)(e) – Removing the paper ballot option, and,
- Par. 16(e) – Adding the requirement for a scrutineer (the Commission Chair or staff member) be present when electronic ballots are opened.

Several items in the Commission's submitted Election Rules required clarification:

- Par. 14 – whether "and mail" should be removed;
- Par. 16(f) – whether "to be spoiled" was intended to be removed,
- Par. 20 – whether paragraph 20 was intended to include reference to paragraph 18 as well as paragraph 19, and
- Par. 22 – the intended review cycle.

Web:

Email: firb@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/BCFarmIndustryReviewBoard

Phone:

Info: 250 356-8945

Fax: 250 356-5131

Mail:

PO Box 9129 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9B5

Office:

2975 Jutland Rd
Victoria, BC V8T 5J9

Analysis

Guidelines – The Commission’s submission met all expectations set out in BCFIRB’s “Guidelines for Approval of Election Rules and Procedures” provided to the Commission.

Digital Voting – The Commission’s proposal to remove paper ballots and move to entirely online voting raises the potential issue of voter access for producers who, for example, lack internet access. However, consultation with producers on these changes included the following: newsletters notices (September-December 2024), consultation at the September 26, 2024, producer meeting, and notice in a memo to all producers on October 4, 2024. No objections were raised by producers throughout this process. The Commission has addressed issues of ballot access by the ample consultation undertaken with producers, and similarly by the lack of objections raised by producers during that consultation.

Timing – The Commission has communicated that its next election period is scheduled for March 2025, and they wish to have these rules approved for use at that time. In order to facilitate this in a timely manner, I have revised the submitted election rules to resolve identified ambiguities.

Decision

I hereby approve the Commission Election Rules submitted by the Commission on December 6, 2024, with the following revisions (as reflected in the attached):

- Par. 14 – “and mail” is removed;
- Par. 16(b) – “the Commission has approved an online voting system” is changed to “the Commission must have an approved online voting system”;
- Par. 16(f) – “to be spoiled” is not removed;
- Par. 20 – paragraph 20 includes reference to paragraph 18 not just 19; and,
- Par. 22 – the review cycle is set at three (3) years as required by BCFIRB’s Guidelines for Approval of Election Rules.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD

Per:



Pawan Joshi
Presiding Member

Attachment: Broiler Hatching Egg Commission Rules and Procedures for the Election of Elected Commission Members

CC: Gunta Vitins, Chair, BCFIRB
Neil Turner, Vice Chair, BCFIRB
Martha Anslow, Executive Director, BCFIRB
Stephanie Nelson, Executive Director, BHEC
BCFIRB website