

ASX Release

3 September 2019

Inghams Group Limited (ASX: ING, Ingham's)

Biosecurity New Zealand and industry managing suspected chicken virus

Bio Security New Zealand has advised that it has become aware of a possible detection of a poultry virus, "Infectious Bursal Disease Virus type 1", in a layer egg farm in Otago, in the South Island of New Zealand.

A copy of information released by Bio Security New Zealand is attached.

There is no suggestion that IBDV type 1 has infected any chicken meat farm in New Zealand.

All of Ingham's chicken farms in New Zealand are located in the North Island and are geographically separate from the affected South Island layer egg farms.

No Ingham's New Zealand farm is affected, and the company has bio security measures in place at its farms to minimize disease risk. Ingham's does not have any layer egg farms.

Ingham's New Zealand does not transfer or export any chicken products to Ingham's Australia. While Ingham's New Zealand has a small export business to countries other than Australia, that business is not material to the New Zealand business.

Bio Security New Zealand has stopped issuing certificates for the export of New Zealand chicken products to countries that require a guarantee that New Zealand is IBVD type 1-free. Bio Security New Zealand has indicated that this: "involves the trade in poultry meat and poultry products to 4 countries, with Australia, being the largest importer of New Zealand chicken meat."

Ingham's will keep the market informed as to whether New Zealand export restrictions will have any material impact on the New Zealand domestic market, and therefore Ingham's New Zealand business.

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Information released by Biosecurity New Zealand

<https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/biosecurity-new-zealand-and-industry-managing-suspected-chicken-virus/>

Biosecurity New Zealand and industry managing suspected chicken virus

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Biosecurity New Zealand is responding to a possible detection of a poultry virus, Infectious Bursal Disease Virus type 1 in a layer egg farm in Otago.

No birds at the Mainland Poultry farm in Waikouaiti have disease symptoms and the farm itself is under voluntary biosecurity controls as a precautionary measure, says Biosecurity New Zealand response manager David Yard.

Preliminary test results indicate the virus is highly likely to be present on the Mainland Poultry property, but further testing overseas is required to confirm this. Those results are expected around mid-September.

In addition, a second Mainland property, near the Waikouaiti facility, has returned suspect results. These are in the early stages of the confirmation process.

Departmental chief scientist Dr John Roche says the virus can affect the immune system of young chickens but it poses no risk to human health or the health of other animals.

"There is no food safety risk with this virus and people should have no concern eating chicken meat or eggs. There will be no impact on domestic egg and chicken meat supply," says Dr Roche.

Mr Yard said that while Biosecurity New Zealand was waiting for final confirmation from the overseas laboratory, it would stop issuing certificates for the export of chicken products to countries that require a guarantee that we are IBDV type 1-free. That involves the trade in poultry meat and poultry products to 4 countries, with Australia being the largest importer of New Zealand chicken meat.

Biosecurity New Zealand is now working with the egg and poultry industries to understand, if confirmed as positive, the scale of the situation and what control or eradication measures are available.

Mr Yard says while this work is underway, Biosecurity New Zealand is reviewing operational measures at the farm to assess, if confirmed present, the risk of spread to other sites. Testing of other South Island layer and meat chicken farms is underway.

Information released by Biosecurity New Zealand

<https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/biosecurity-new-zealand-and-industry-managing-suspected-chicken-virus/>

Biosecurity New Zealand and industry will work together to consider options to manage the situation, balancing the impacts of the disease if confirmed, against the costs and benefits of any control measures.

There are two different types of IBDV – Types 1 and 2. Type 2 is already in New Zealand and causes no significant health issues in the national flock and is of no trade concern. The current suspect result is for Type 1.

IBDV type 1 was discovered in New Zealand in 1993. An industry-led programme to eradicate has meant New Zealand has been able to claim absence of the disease. Most other countries in the world have this virus and successfully manage it within the industry.

If the presence of IBDV type 1 is confirmed, Biosecurity New Zealand investigators will be looking at how the virus could have entered New Zealand and are looking at a range of possibilities including imported veterinary medicines, travelling farm workers, and other imported goods.