

This is Exhibit “MM” referred to in the
Affidavit 1 of Dr. Cathy Furness
affirmed before me at Guelph, Ontario
this 5 day of June, 2025.

Ch. Arj

REPORT OF INSPECTION OR FIELD ACTIVITY FOR NOTIFIABLE AVIAN INFLUENZA (NAI)

Event: BRITISH COLUMBIA APRIL 2022

Premises Information			
Farm Name: Universal Ostrich Farms Inc.	OR	Infected Premises (IP): BC-IP-233	Premises ID: BC44K4PMR
Farm Address			
R.R. or Street Address: 301 Langille Road			
City: Edgewood	Province: BC	Postal Code: V0G 1J0	
Owner Information (if different from above)			
Name: Karen Espersen & Dave Bilinski		R.R. or Street Address:	
City:	Province: BC	Postal Code:	Telephone No. (778) 692-9389
Purpose of Inspection			
☐ Biocontainment ☐ Cleaning & Disinfection (C&D) ☐ Destruction ☐ Disposal ☐ Epidemiology ☒ Quarantine ☒ Other Specify if other is selected: Inspection of conditions of quarantine order, observe disposal conditions ☐ Surveillance If Surveillance is selected, select from the following options: ☐ Dead Bird Surveillance ☐ Active Surveillance ☐ Pre-depopulation ☐ Other Specify if other is selected:			
Visit Detail			
Date of Visit: 2025-02-26	Time of Visit: 09:45 AM	Enter times in 24 hour clock, e.g. 3:30 a.m. = 0330; 3:30 p.m. = 1530 Enter the Inspector's name(s) below. Place the lead inspector first. You may enter additional inspectors by pressing the + button, or remove a name by pressing the - button.	
Inspector: Zachary DiGuistini	+ -	Inspector:	+ -
Inspector: Cortnie Fotheringham	+ -	Inspector:	+ -
Inspector:	+ -	Inspector:	+ -
Inspector:	+ -	Inspector:	+ -
Inspector:	+ -	Inspector:	+ -
Enter the name(s) of premises personnel present below. You may enter additional names by pressing the + button, or remove a name by pressing the - button.			
Premises Personnel: Dave Bilinski	+ -	Premises Personnel:	+ -
Premises Personnel: Karen Espersen	+ -	Premises Personnel:	+ -
Premises Personnel:	+ -	Premises Personnel:	+ -
Inspection Report (Describe inspection or field activity):			
At approximately 09:45 AM on February 26, 2025, inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini arrived on-site at BC-IP-233 with an escort from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini, parked the vehicle and stood near the East access road on Langille Road while waiting for Dave Bilinski and Karen Espersen to arrive. The Inspectors were met by three protestors that were staying on the adjacent property from the quarantine area. Inspector, Z. DiGuistini walked North up the East access road towards the locked gate that provided access to East pens that contained ostriches. Inspector Fotheringham took pictures and notes of the East access road and area where ostriches could come up the fence line. Dave Bilinski (Owner) arrived within several minutes from his private residence. Inspector, C. Fotheringham explained CFIA would conduct an on-site inspection of the premises, more specifically to assess the conditions of the quarantine order as well as observe any disposal activities that may have been conducted. Dave Bilinski appeared to have called his lawyer and/or seeked counsel prior to providing access to the premises. Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini were provided access to the premises through the locked gate situated at the West side on Langille Road. While waiting for access for approximately 10-15 minutes, relatively fresh hay was observed on the snow on both sides of the fence area (where Ostriches are housed) located at the approximate coordinates: 49.862443, -118.152832. Once access through the locked gate was provided, CFIA inspectors drove the West access road and stopped at the biocontainment lines, and prepared the equipment and supplies prior to entering the "hot-zone". A single blue "boot bath" bin placed by the owners marked the delineation between hot and cold zones. To begin the inspection within the "hot-zone", Karen Espersen faced her camera at the CFIA inspectors and appeared to have recorded the length of the inspection until departing through the biocontainment lines.			

Personal information will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy Act and will be stored in Personal Information Bank CFIA PPU 050/ CFIA CON 025. Information may be accessible or protected as required under the provisions of the Access to Information Act.

The inspection after transiting through the biocontainment lines began at the North-West gate that provided access to the most Western pen. Several ostriches arrived at the gate once we arrived. Clear vehicle tires tracks were observed between the West access road and the entrance into and through the North-West gate that provided direct access into the pen that contained ostriches.

The inspection continued to the disposal pits situated further North along the West access road. Dave claimed that furthest West disposal pit contained greater than 20 ostrich carcasses in one area as well as greater than 30 ostrich carcasses in adjacent area. Dave claimed that both pits had been filled to ground level. Note: the West disposal pits were covered in snow during the inspection. Inspector, Z. DiGuistini asked if an excavator was used to prepare the disposal pits and when they may have brought onto the premises. Dave Bilinski claimed that an excavator was needed to prepare the burial pits and was first brought on-site during the first week of January 2025. The second burial pit was closer to fence line towards the pens. Dave Bilinski claimed that burial pit was not filled yet and contained approximately 13 carcasses. The following was observed for second burial pit: a pile of soil that was removed to unearth the hole/pit, a tarp covered over the pit, a fence panel over the pit, as well as wooden pallets. Adjacent to the second burial pit were two bagged/tarped ostrich carcasses as noted by Dave Bilinski. He mentioned the plan to obtain equipment to bury the carcasses and fill the second burial pit to ground level. Inspector Fotheringham ask when the two birds in the bag had died and Karen replied that they did not know the date, did take pictures and the birds did not die due to the flu but because they were skinny and unable to handle the cold.

The inspection continued along the fence line towards the North-East. Several flocks (i.e. groups) of wild waterfowl were observed within the pens where the ostriches were contained. The wild waterfowl were situated on the snowpack and remained relatively undisturbed for what appeared the duration of the inspection. Once at the fence that overlooked the pen that contained the uncovered outdoor pond, additional flocks of waterfowl were observed in the pens. Dave and Karen claimed that they believed the wild waterfowl had avian influenza; H5N1 and wanted their presence in order to "build resiliency" for the ostriches. They also claimed that keeping the wild birds at their site prevented the spread of H5N1 to other neighbors. The Wild birds were observed flying in and out of the East pens during the discussion.

Throughout the inspection, the segregation of ostriches by sex was not observed. All of the ostriches observed from Langille Road, the East access road, the West access road and at the North looking towards the pond were not contained with any housing structures or facilities that provided. All ostriches observed were outdoors and able to travel freely within their respective pens. Most of the premises including the access roads and pens were covered with snow. Wet and muddy conditions were observed in areas throughout the inspection. Temperature during the inspection was approximately 1C-4C with clear, sunny conditions.

Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini and owners, Dave Bilinski and Karen Espersen walked back to the biocontainment lines at the North access gate. Dave and Karen referenced the ostriches experienced illness and mortalities in 2020 and suggested they were infected or could have been H5N1. They believe that some of the ostriches gained "immunity" from avian influenza following the illness that occurred in 2020.

Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini, doffed personal protective equipment (PPE) through biocontainment lines using CFIA biocontainment equipment and supplies (boot bath with disinfectant, brushes, hand sprayer with disinfectant, garbage bags, etc.). At the same time, Dave Bilinski and Karen Espersen walked through their biocontainment lines directly to their vehicle in the "cold-zone" without removing or doffing any PPE. The removal and/or cleaning and disinfection of any clothing, PPE, or equipment was not observed. A blue boot bath was present but did not contain any solution and/or disinfectant. No procedure or measures to follow and/or implement their Biosecurity SOP or related biosecurity procedures were observed, while transition through biocontainment lines (i.e. from the hot-zone to the cold-zone) or while exiting the premises.

Prior to entering vehicles, Dave Bilinski requested CFIA badge numbers. Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini willingly provided the badge numbers to Dave Bilinski and Karen Espersen. Note: Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini had offered to provide CFIA badge numbers prior to entering the premises.

Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini, entered the vehicle and drove down the West access towards Langille road and then left the premises and the area. At approximately 11:40am the Inspectors left the site

☐ I do not have applicable comments re: "Challenges encountered, lessons learned, next steps, safety issues, media interactions (if any)"

Challenges encountered, lessons learned, next steps, safety issues, media interactions (if any):

Upon arrival at the premises, Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini were approached within minutes by several protesters or demonstrators who appeared to have already been stationed adjacent to premises. Two of the protesters recorded Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini while waiting for the owners to arrive and provide access. The protesters did not enter into premises past the main locked gate (separating Langille Rd and the West access road). Inspectors C. Fotheringham and Z. DiGuistini did not engage with protesters with questions directly related to the infected premises, BC-IP-233.

☐ I do not have "Other relevant observations"		
Other relevant observations, if applicable, e.g. Health of flock, wild birds accessing barn, rodents in barn, wild waterfowl on premises, biosecurity breaches, etc:		
Inspector's Signature		
Zachary DiGuistini _____ Lead Inspector's Name	<i>Z. DiGuistini</i> _____ Signature	2025-03-04 _____ Date
Unit Lead's Review		
Indicate referrals made or actions taken pursuant to this report: Information has been provided to the EIS member for review based on the non-compliances observed		
_____ Unit Lead's Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date