

Cost of Disease Tool – Statement of Purpose and Limitation of Liability

Statement of Purpose

The cost of disease tool is intended to allow farmers to estimate the potential financial impact of a specific disease to a herd or flock of the subject species in his/her operation. The estimate is based on costs and production factors provided by each farmer and by disease impact factors that have been found in published scientific literature. The impact is expressed in monetary terms and is expected to be used as a decision-support tool to help users determine whether to invest in a disease prevention strategy.

The tool is not intended to be an accounting system for the purposes of calculating a farm's financial results. Rather it hopes to show farmers a range of costs that they might experience if a specific disease problem were to occur, and to help them make decisions about how they implement biosecurity at their farms.

The tool works by the farmer entering specific values for a number of simplified data fields, as they relate to his/her farm operations. The information is specific to a subject species and is grouped into three cost centres, breeding, meat and milk production. It is used to display revenues for each activity and their corresponding expense estimates.

The tool estimates a disease-specific impact on each specific herd or flock by considering the areas of production that are affected, and the range of impact reported in published sources. Combining this production impact with the costs and revenues entered for the operation, an estimated range of financial impact is illustrated that might be experienced in a particular production cycle. The calculator considers only variable costs related to the number of animals, the sales value of production, the cost of feed, the cost of replacement breeding stock, and the veterinarian and medication cost. There are numerous other fixed and variable costs incurred by farmers that this tool was not designed to consider.

Limitation of Liability:

The Ontario Veal Association, Ontario Rabbit, Ontario Goat, the Ontario Cattlemen's Association, the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency and eBiz Professionals make no representations concerning the accuracy of costs or revenues calculated within the tool nor concerning the validity of results thus obtained or their accurate depiction of costs on any farm. Use of the tool carries no guarantee of any kind, express or implied. These organizations accept no liability for damages to any person or business entity that might result from using this cost of disease tool, its information or any website linked to it.