



New Entrant Grower (NEG) Program *Update*

September 2026

Background

The last three New Entrant Growers from the Board's previous NEG program started production by August 2025. The program was then retired, while the Board completed two public consultations on a future NEG Program and on BC broiler Quota Use and Access (QUAC).

To read about the consultation process, results, and outcomes, please visit:
bcchicken.ca/quota-use-and-access-consultation

The Board is grateful for the feedback from industry around a potential new program to support New Entrants in the chicken-growing industry.

The Board further considered a number of policy options, which included:

- the elimination of waitlists
- the elimination of “windfall gains”
- the use of a “non-transferable” quota

The plan initially was to announce a new program by fall of 2026.

Update

Once the Board began work to streamline other quota policies — in response to the QUAC consultation, including updating the Over-Marketing Levy (OML) policy to give growers more flexibility and reviewing regional quota policies — the Board's direction shifted.

The Board has decided to put the NEG program in abeyance pending future strategic planning.

The Board will review this decision again once the Quota Exchange (QEX) has been implemented and in operation for at least one year. Fair access and transparency of quota availability is a key driver of new growers to the industry, and a proven QEX will help meet this need. Meanwhile, the Board will try to consider all policy variables, including New Entrant programs, that contribute to the sustainability and growth of the BC chicken industry in preparation for its next strategic planning process in 2027 (for implementation in 2028-2030).

Reasons for this decision include:

- the Board does not believe that a NEG program is warranted at this time, since we have had 19 new growers successfully enter the chicken industry in 2019-2025 *without* the benefit of a NEG program. These growers are in addition to the 10 New Entrant Growers that started through the NEG program over the same period.
- Since fair access to quota is key to a successful new entrant (with or without a New Entrant Grower program support), the Board plans to review (and adjust if necessary) the effects of the Quota Exchange implementation, prior to also implementing a new quota support program.
- In July 2026, the Board put in requests with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the BC Farm Industry Review Board in order to streamline and update regional grower quota policies. The Board would like to consider these government decisions within its policy framework before making the decision to pursue a NEG program.

Policies and programs are regularly reviewed and adjusted in response to market conditions and other factors. So, to be clear, the Board may choose to implement an NEG program in the future. Ensuring the growth and sustainability of the BC chicken industry remains a priority.