

BIOSECURITY MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF AVIAN INFLUENZA DURING AN OUTBREAK

In General:

- ❑ Minimize social gatherings and visiting. Plan necessary meetings to take place at a location where there is no poultry.
- ❑ Avoid visiting farms that keep poultry, waterfowl, or game birds.
- ❑ Do not attend auctions where poultry is sold.
- ❑ Keep your poultry house(s) locked. Allow only essential personnel into your poultry house(s). Provide clean or disposable coveralls, head covers, and plastic boots or boots that can be cleaned and disinfected.
- ❑ Before working with your own flock, put on clean clothing and footwear.
- ❑ Do not share equipment or vehicles with other farms.
- ❑ Change disinfectant foot baths daily. Place foot baths at outside entries to poultry house(s) and egg room(s).
- ❑ Reduce traffic coming onto your premises.
- ❑ Insist that vehicles and equipment entering your premises be cleaned and disinfected. (Personnel and equipment that have been in direct or indirect contact with the live bird markets pose a great risk).
- ❑ Trucks from a live bird market should not go directly to any farm to load birds. It is recommended that birds are taken to a central location for loading onto trucks for a live bird market (LBM). Vehicles transporting birds should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before returning to the farm. Special attention should be paid to the crates. If you must allow trucks from a LBM onto your premises, do not allow personnel or crates from the LBM to enter your poultry house(s), unless those personnel are wearing proper clothing and crates have been cleaned and disinfected.
- ❑ Insist that supplies brought to your premises (egg flats, carts, etc.) be new (if disposable) or washed and disinfected (plastic flats, carts, shelves, or dividers).
- ❑ Follow the “all-in/all-out” philosophy of flock management.
- ❑ Protect open range or backyard poultry flocks from contact with wild birds and water that may have been contaminated by wild birds.
- ❑ Dispose of dead birds safely (incineration, burial, composting, rendering). Never pile dead birds outside of a building or spread them on fields.
- ❑ If multiple loadouts are required on your farm, try to have all birds off the farm within 3-4 days.
- ❑ Report any increased illness or mortality to your company or to the RI DEM Division of Agriculture (401-222-2781).

Reporting

- ❑ Report any signs suggestive of AI in the flock immediately to the State Veterinarian at the RI DEM Division of Agriculture (DAG): 401-222-2781.
- ❑ Signs generally suggestive of Avian Influenza include the following:
 - Increased mortality;
 - Decreased egg production;
 - Swollen eyelids/sinuses/combs or wattles;
 - Purple or bluish discoloration of wattles and combs;
 - Respiratory snicking; and
 - Generally depressed birds.
 - Commonly, the producer will notice mortality increases, and several days later, decreased egg production among layers.

Guidelines for Submission of Samples to Laboratories

- ❑ NOTE: If a foreign animal disease (a reportable FAD, such as LPAI or HPAI) is suspected, sampling can only be conducted by a certified FADD (Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician). Prior notification of USDA or DAG is required.
- ❑ Samples can be tested at any laboratory that is USDA or DAG approved.
- ❑ Notify the laboratory in advance when samples will arrive.
- ❑ When leaving dead birds at the end of a farm lane for swabbing, place birds in a sturdy, leak-proof container. Authorized personnel will collect swab samples and leave the dead birds at that site for disposal.
- ❑ To ensure the integrity of swab samples:
 - Verify that the viral transport medium (VTM) has not changed to a bright pink color (or that clear amber BHI has not turned cloudy) and has not passed the date of expiration.
 - Keep VTM refrigerated at all times.
 - Keep the swabs in VTM on fresh ice packs until transporting to an approved laboratory (you may need to change ice packs at least every 24 hours).
 - If samples are stored in a freezer for more than 72 hours, seal each box within a plastic bag to prevent the VTM from drying.
 - Place a completed copy of an AI Sample Submission Form in each box with the corresponding samples. Samples must be identified with the Premise ID, farm name, phone number, date of sample collection, and dates on which dead bird carcasses were collected. (If you need a Premise ID number, call the DEM Division of Agriculture, 401-222-2781).

Note: these are minimal guidelines. Additional measures may be required.

The RI DEM Division of Agriculture reserves the right to amend the above mentioned requirements for Avian Influenza with the goal of any changes still being to prevent, contain and eliminate the disease. Changes to the general guidelines of the protocol may result from information including, but not limited to, virus strain, pathogenicity, morbidity and mortality, movement of birds and products, and additional epidemiological information obtained as a result of avian influenza investigations.