

## COLLECTION OF BLOOD SAMPLES FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI) SURVEILLANCE

Please Note: In collecting and submitting samples, identify the Premises precisely. All submission forms should include a Premises ID Number. If you do not know the number, request one from the RI DEM Division of Agriculture (DAG at 401-222-2781). If a Premises ID number is unavailable, on all submission forms record the street address where the samples were taken. (Note: That address may differ from the grower's mailing address.)

- ❑ Secure bird by holding it with its wings extended away from the body and folded against one another.
- ❑ Pluck a few feathers from the bend in the wing to expose the median vein.
- ❑ Using a sterile scalpel blade, prick the vein to obtain a blood sample.
- ❑ Place at least 0.50 ml of blood in a tube available from the DAG or its designated laboratory. (I.e., microfuge tubes must be at least one-third full.)
- ❑ Allow the blood sample to stand for 4 to 12 hours at room temperature.
- ❑ Place the blood sample in a refrigerator until it can be transported to the laboratory.
- ❑ Write the farm name and Premises ID on the side of the box of samples (not on the lid).
- ❑ Prepare a completed submission form which includes a Premises ID.

Note: Other methods of blood sample collection are available from D.V. Zander and E.T. Mallinson in *Diseases of Poultry*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, ed. B.W. Calnek (Iowa State University Press, 1991), pp. 28-30.

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.