

ON-FARM DEAD BIRD AI SURVEILLANCE

BEFORE HEADING TO THE FARM:

1. Obtain ice.
2. Mix up disinfectant in a sprayer.
3. Obtain two (2) full boxes of BHI broth and place them in front of the car.
4. Put disinfectant in an empty plastic container that will hold used scissors.

PROTOCOL FOR SAMPLE COLLECTOR:

1. Before heading to the farm, obtain the day's premises assignments, maps, and labels. Determine an order for visiting premises.
2. Fill water jugs with water.
3. Obtain at least six (6) empty tube-boxes and place them in the car.
4. Obtain at least twelve (12) biosecurity packs of appropriate size
5. Obtain ten (10) sterile instruments (scalpel or scissors) in a plastic container.
6. Obtain a clean container to hold disinfectant and used instruments.
7. Obtain at least 360 sterile swabs. Open swabs and place 60 swabs each into whirl packs/zip locks for each farm. Also have on-hand some extra unopened swabs.
8. Make sure the cab of vehicle contains the equipment listed for the front of vehicle.
9. Make sure the trunk or back of the vehicle is contains the equipment listed for the back of vehicle.
10. Upon reaching the premises, park the vehicle in a location off the road, near where the containers of dead birds are placed at each designated farm location.
11. Before leaving the vehicle, close all vehicle windows. Place two pairs of boots over your shoes (if you have clear plastic booties, put them on the inside. Some kits may have two pairs of identical booties).
12. Get out of vehicle. Put on a Tyvek suit, hair bonnet, and two pairs of gloves. A dust mask may be optional; however, for consistency, if one team member uses a mask, the other team member should, too. Tape a trash bag to your suit with duct tape. Obtain sufficient surveyor tape to tape each trash can that holds birds. (Do not take entire roll with you or it will be contaminated.)
13. Remove one bird at a time from the container. Place the lid upside-down on the trash can, if you want to use it for a work surface, and place a clean plastic bag on top of the lid as a "table cloth." (You can also do sample collection on the ground; in that case, place a trash bag on the ground for your work surface).
14. Use a scissors to expose the trachea. Take a dry swab from the assistant, and swab the trachea. Ring the trachea in attempt to maximize the chance of collecting cells in addition to fluid.

15. Place the swab in the BHI tube which the assistant will hold for you. (Note: You do not touch the tubes.)
16. Get a bag from the assistant. Place the sampled bird into a new trash bag and close the bag.
17. Continue collecting tracheal swabs. Place up to eleven (11) swabs in each tube. Sample up to ten (33) birds per house. There may be multiple houses per farm, but all samples from each farm should go into the same sample box.
18. When a tube is filled, remove the swabs. Wring the swabs out against the neck of the tube and dispose of those swabs away in your trash bag.
19. When sampling is completed, direct the assistant to open the plastic container with disinfectant, and place your used scissors in there. Replace the bird in the garbage container.
20. Put the plastic “table cloth” (trash bag) into the bag that you are filling with trash. Remove your first pair of gloves, and place them in your trash bag.
21. Seal all containers, except one, with surveyor’s tape so the producers know you have taken your samples.
22. Spray the outside of all containers that held birds and the surrounding ground with Virkon-S.
23. Remove your Tyvek suit, bonnet, and outer pair of boots, and place them in your trash bag.
24. Place your trash bag and your assistant’s trash bag in the container without the tape.
25. Seal the last container with surveyor’s tape.
26. Sit in the car without your hands or feet touching the inside. Remove a boot by inverting your glove over it. Repeat the process with your second boot and glove and roll them into one ball that you will leave on the farm.
27. Spray your shoes with Lysol and wash your hands with waterless hand cleaner.
28. When back at the lab, clean and sterilize or safely discard used instruments.

PROTOCOL FOR ASSISTANT:

1. Before getting to farm, place 12 BHI tubes into a clean, empty box. While enroute to each premises, place a farm label on the 12 BHI tubes and the farm number on the bottom of box (use an extra label, if available).
2. Upon reaching the premises, the vehicle will be parked in a location off the road, near where the dead-bird containers are placed at each designated farm.
3. Before leaving the vehicle, close the windows of the vehicle. Place two pairs of boots on your shoes (if you have clear plastic booties, put those on the inside. Some kits will have two pairs of identical booties).
4. Get out of the vehicle. Put on a Tyvek suit and hair bonnet and two pairs of gloves. A dust mask is optional; however, for consistency, if one team member uses a mask, the other team member should, too. Tape a trash bag to your suit with the duct tape.

5. Bring pre-labeled BHI tubes (in a sample box that is for this farm only), scissors, and trash bags for bird disposal and swabs out of the car.
6. Offer the Collector a scissors when he or she is ready. When the Collector is ready, remove and offer a dry swab. You hold the BHI box. Open the BHI tube for the collector to insert up to five swabs.
7. When a tube is full, the Collector will remove the swabs. When he or she has removed the swabs, close the tubes tightly. Dump extra, unused BHI broth only in a trash bag. (Empty glass tubes should remain in the box and be disposed of in the lab. Do not put empty glass tubes in trash bag!) Remove outer gloves.
8. Place the completed sampling box in a small plastic bag. Spray the bag with disinfectant. Place the bagged box directly in a cooler.
9. Spray the car wheels and wells with disinfectant.
10. Remove your bonnet, Tyvek suit, and outer boots, and place them in a trash bag. The Collector will place the bag in bird container.
11. Sit in the car without your hands or feet touching the inside. Remove a boot by inverting your glove over it. Repeat this process with second boot and glove, and roll them into one ball that you will leave on the farm.
12. Spray your shoes with Lysol, and wash your hands with waterless hand cleaner. Prepare for the next farm.

Wash the car at the end of the day!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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.