

Tennessee Poultry Show and Exhibition Biosecurity and Protective Measures

Since December 2014, USDA has confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 in the Pacific, Central and Mississippi flyways. The disease has been found in wild birds, backyard flocks and commercial poultry flocks. To date, 21 states have been effected including Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa being heavily impacted and declaring a state of emergency. At this time, HPAI has not been detected in Tennessee. With fair season approaching, poultry show organizers and poultry owners need to review and strengthen their current disease prevention practices. Please review the following guidelines for reducing the risks of disease transmission during poultry exhibitions. During a show, if any bird should exhibit clinical signs of avian influenza (detailed below), the bird should be isolated and the **State Veterinarian's office contact immediately at 615-837-5120**. Additional questions regarding biosecurity practices can be directed to the State Veterinarian's office at: animal.health@tn.gov.

Note: If any birds exhibit illness at home within 14 days prior to traveling, none of the birds (healthy or sick) from that flock should be taken to any shows or exhibitions.

Import requirements for birds entering the state of Tennessee

Effective August 1, 2015, all live poultry and hatching eggs entering Tennessee shall originate from a flock participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and be accompanied by a VS 9-3 Form denoting the classification of Pullorum-Typhoid (PT) Clean and Avian Influenza (AI) Clean or AI Monitored Flock; **or**, be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and proof of negative testing for PT conducted within ninety (90) days prior to entering the state and negative for AI within 21 days prior to entering the state. For AI, if the flock of origin contains up to thirty (30) birds, each bird must be individually tested; for flocks over thirty (30) birds, a sampling of at least (30) birds from the flock of origin needs to be tested. It is the fair manager's responsibility to ensure that every bird has the appropriate documentation when arriving on the fair grounds.

Minimizing spread of disease between birds

- Minimize contact between exhibition birds and wild birds or wild waterfowl. This includes removing food and water sources that attract wild birds.
- Exhibition poultry should be housed indoors or within a screened area.
- Different species (chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese) should be separated.
- Limit the time birds are congregated and co-mingled at an exhibition.
- Minimize the number of people who have contact with your birds.
- Exhibitors should practice good hygiene. Wash hands often and wear clean clothing when handling birds.
- Clean cages, food, and water containers daily.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors.

- Following the exhibition, all exhibition areas, including cages should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Begin by removing all organic material from the surface using scrub brushes, then disinfect with household bleach (6% sodium hypochlorite) at a ratio of ¾ cup of household bleach per gallon of water. Cleaned and disinfected areas should be allowed to dry completely before restocking.
- Isolate and observe birds for illness for at least 14 days after returning home and before allowing contact with other animals.
- To reduce the risk of spreading influenza, owners should refrain from attending another event with their birds for at least 14 days from the end of the exhibition.

Recognizing and responding to disease

- Observe birds daily for signs of influenza-like illness.
- Clinical signs include:
 - Sudden death
 - Lack of energy or appetite
 - Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
 - Wheezing, coughing, sneezing, and nasal discharge
- If a bird shows clinical signs consistent with influenza or other disease, the designated veterinarian and exhibition staff should be notified, the bird should be removed from contact with other birds and the public, and the bird should be tested for avian influenza.
- Should a bird be suspected of having avian influenza, the Tennessee State Veterinarian's office should be contacted at 615-837-5120.

Helpful Links

- Practicing good biosecurity: <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov/>
- USDA APHIS Biosecurity Guide for Poultry and Bird Owners: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2014/pub_bioguide_poultry_bird.pdf
- Enroll in the National Poultry Improvement Plan: <http://www.poultryimprovement.org>
- Follow Animal Health Alert updates at: <http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/regulatory/animals>
- Reducing the risk of transmission of zoonotic influenza to humans: <http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendiaZoonoticInfluenza.html>