



Recommended Biosecurity Practices for Poultry Exhibitors to Minimize Risk of Spreading Avian Influenza



Biosecurity means doing everything you can to protect your birds against disease. Standard biosecurity practices are important for California’s poultry community at all times. The California Department of Agriculture’s State Veterinarian, Dr. Annette Jones, recommends that poultry owners and event organizers enhance their current level biosecurity especially since ongoing highly pathogenic avian influenza incidents are being found across the country. Here are some recommendations for Poultry Exhibitors:

BEFORE the Exhibition

If your birds show any sign of illness, please do not bring your birds to the exhibition nor attend yourself

- House poultry indoors or at minimum, within a screened area
- Remove food and water sources that attract pests such as wild waterfowl/birds, rodents, and insects
- House different species (e.g. chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese) separate from each other
- Avoid visits to other backyard flocks or poultry operations and restrict visitor access to your birds
- Avoid direct contact with wildlife, especially wild birds and waterfowl
- Keep tools and equipment clean and disinfected
 - Clean cages and food and water containers daily
- Wash hands and disinfect shoes after working with birds
- Consider having dedicated boots and clothing for working with your birds
- Monitor and document the health of your birds daily
- Become familiar with the clinical signs of highly pathogenic avian influenza in birds:



- Sudden death
- Wheezing, coughing, nasal discharge
- Decreased energy
- Decreased feed intake
- Drop in egg production or egg quality



Examples of Disinfectant Products*

- **1-Stroke Environ™** germicidal detergent
- **Tek-trol™** Disinfectant Cleaner concentrate
- **Nolvasan® S** (Chlorhexidine diacetate)
- **Clorox Regular Bleach** EPA: 5873-50 (sodium hypochlorite 6%)
- **Lysol Power & Fresh Multi-purpose cleaner®** EPA: 777-66 spray
- **Purell®** hand sanitizer

**Disclaimer: Trade names used in this publication do not constitute a guarantee, warranty or endorsement of the products, nor criticize similar products not mentioned. CDFA bears no responsibility for liability resulting from the use of these products. These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent highly contagious diseases from affecting your birds, however, they will reduce risks.*

- Swelling and/or discoloration of eyes, head, neck, combs, or wattles
- Tremors, circling, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck

If avian influenza-like illness occurs within the exhibition, call the Sick Bird Hotline or local CDFA Animal Health Branch/USDA Office immediately!

- In the event of more than one sick bird or unusual bird deaths, call the CDFA Sick Bird Hotline or local CDFA Animal Health Branch/USDA office
 - Immediately isolate sick birds to a pen or area that is away from all other birds
 - Handle sick birds after tending to healthy birds
- Understand the risks of taking a bird to an exhibition
- Ask the exhibition organizer about any specific actions that may be required if a bird becomes sick at the show

Before arriving at the event, bird owners should communicate with event organizers about appropriate disease prevention measures

| Contact Information | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sick Bird Hotline | (866) 922-2473 |
| CDFA Modesto District | (209) 491-9350 |
| CDFA Ontario District | (909) 947-4462 |
| CDFA Redding District | (530) 225-2140 |
| CDFA Tulare District | (559) 685-3500 |
| CDFA Sacramento Headquarters | (916) 900-5002 |
| USDA-VS Toll Free | (877) 741-3690 |

DURING the Exhibition

- Clean cages, food, and water containers daily
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors; If equipment must be shared, make sure it is cleaned and disinfected between uses
- Restrict direct contact between your birds and other birds
- Avoid contact with other birds during the event
- Restrict bird contact to essential personnel
- Observe birds daily for signs of avian influenza or other disease
 - Report any clinical signs to the designated exhibition veterinarian, poultry health inspector, or appropriate exhibition staff
 - Immediately remove sick birds from the exhibition area
 - If your bird(s) show signs of influenza-like illness, testing (e.g. blood samples or swab samples) may be required and those results will be shared with the State Veterinarian's Office



AFTER the Exhibition

- Refrain from attending another event with your birds for *at least* two (2) weeks after returning from an exhibition
- Isolate and observe birds for illness after returning home and before allowing contact with other animals
 - The isolation/observation period for clinical signs of illness should be no fewer than 14 days
 - Tend to the healthy birds that were kept at home first and then later to the isolated birds that attended the event
- Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing, shoes, and vehicles/trailers that were at the exhibition
 - Allow all cleaned and disinfected items to dry completely before re-use or restocking
- **Call the CDFA Sick Bird Hotline or local CDFA Animal Health Branch/USDA office (see front for contact information) if birds become ill**



The current circulating strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus are considered very low risk to humans and to date, there have been no known cases of HPAI virus in humans from the current outbreak

- If exhibitors or family members develop influenza-like illness, consult a healthcare provider and a county public health official as soon as possible:
 - Inform the health care provider of close contact with birds and/or exhibition attendant
 - Ill people should avoid all contact with birds until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications



LOOK
for Signs



REPORT
Sick Birds



PROTECT
Your Birds