



Frequently Asked Questions re 2015 Bird Show Cancellations

Since the decision was made to cancel bird exhibitions and public shows and sales in Ohio for the remainder of 2015, a number of questions about the application of the policy. The following are the most frequently asked.

Q: Can kids already raising fair project birds still complete their project?

A: Yes, they just cannot bring their birds to the fair. We want exhibitors raising birds to have as fulfilling a fair experience as possible without having their birds with them and are encouraging fair boards to think creatively about how they can provide that experience.

Q: It's too late to cancel bird orders for our exhibitors that chose poultry projects. Can we still distribute birds?

A: Yes. In order to ensure the distribution of bird orders is managed safely, we ask that your practice good transportation and biosecurity protocols as you transfer them from the shipping location to home.

1. Distribution Point – Please think critically about where the birds will be picked up from and ensure the distribution point is not within 10 KM (6.25 Miles) of a poultry production facility.
2. Transportation – Remember to follow the guidelines of the state's Livestock Care Standards and consult with a veterinarian.
 - a. Make sure poultry have ample room, without too much room
 - b. Protect the chicks from inclement weather
3. Biosecurity – Practicing good biosecurity habits are essential as we try to prevent this disease from entering the state. Please consult with a veterinarian for guidance on setting up proper biosecurity protocols.
 - a. Clean and disinfect all vehicle wheels that are leaving the distribution point with an appropriate viricide.
 - b. Provide a foot bath of an appropriate viricide for everyone coming to pick up birds.

Q: Can exhibitors still sell their market projects at the fair?

A: No, however the exhibitors can participate in a premium sale or auction provided the following criteria are met:

1. The live birds are not brought to the fairgrounds for the sale/auction. Photos or eggs may be brought in place of live birds if needed.
2. If your fair is transporting birds on behalf of the exhibitors for processing, utilize a central drop-off location rather than multiple pick-ups. Chose a drop-off location that is not within 10 KM (6.25 Miles) of a poultry production facility.
3. The transportation and biosecurity guidelines listed above are followed, particularly the use of vehicle spray and a foot bath.

Q: Can arrangements be made to collect and send for processing these projects even if the birds are not shown at the fair?

A: Yes, provided the following criteria are met:

1. A central drop-off location is utilized rather than multiple pick-ups. Chose a drop-off location that is not within 10 KM (6.25 Miles) of a poultry production facility.
2. The transportation and biosecurity guidelines listed above are followed, particularly the use of vehicle spray and a foot bath.

Q: Can processed birds be distributed to buyers, food pantries, etc.?

A: Yes, as long as state and federal meat inspection laws are followed.

Q: Can eggs be shown at county/state fairs?

A: Yes. Eggs may be shown at the fair. They should be presented clean, free of all fecal matter and blood.

Q: Are egg hatching/incubator activities allowed at the county/state fairs? Can hatched chicks be sent home with 4-Hers/students or others?

A: No. Eggs for hatching are treated the same as live birds because the birds will need to move on to a permanent home after the fair is over.

Q: Can a bird or birds from a single source be brought to the fair for use in showmanship/Round Robin/poultry knowledge competitions?

A: No. The proclamation prohibits any live birds from being brought to the fair, regardless of final destination.

Q: Would birds from various sources be allowed if the show is terminal, such as a broiler show?

A: No. The proclamation prohibits any live birds from being brought to the fair, regardless of final destination; the terminal status is not germane to this situation.

Q: Can birds be purchased at local farm supply store?

A: Yes. As long as the seller is offering birds that come from a flock that participates in the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP). The transportation and biosecurity guidelines listed above should be followed.

Q: Can exotic or wild birds that are put on display still come to the fair if they come from and return to the same location without comingling?

A: This prohibition applies to all bird species, not just domestic poultry. This includes exotics, game fowl and specialty species.

Q: Can we hold a carcass show in place of a live bird show either at the fairgrounds or at a local slaughter establishment?

A: ODA is does not recommend carcass shows for poultry.

Q: I have additional questions. How can I get answers?

A: Email all questions to fairs@agri.ohio.gov