



BIOSECURITY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS –

If you raise hens, broilers or turkeys – you can't afford not to be biosecure

The Losses

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), commonly known as the “bird flu”, has devastated the nation’s poultry flocks. To date (June 11, 2015):

- 21 states have had positive findings of HPAI
- 228 different sites have been affected – including 207 commercial flocks and 21 backyard flocks
- Turkey farmers have lost about 7.5 percent of their inventory and well over 7.5 million birds
- Egg farmers have experienced the greatest losses – at about 10 percent of layer inventory and nearing 6 percent of pullet inventory – an overall loss of more than 41 million birds
- While broiler farms have had limited instances of HPAI to date, these flocks remain at high risk

The full financial impact of HPAI is still unknown. For affected farms, the losses are projected to be in the multi-millions of dollars. Some may not be able to repopulate for many months, if ever. Across the egg and turkey farm communities, there have been layoffs and terrible consequences for rural communities. Most importantly, the emotional toll this has taken on farmers whose livelihoods and family operations have been hit by HPAI is extraordinary, and they face an uncertain future.

What's Essential to Know

Epidemiologists, poultry scientists and veterinarians are working around the clock to determine why and how HPAI is spreading. What we know for certain at this time is that no farm is immune, and the timetable for when the disease may slow its spread is unknown.

Further, experts have predicted that while HPAI occurrences may end over the hot summer months, it is anticipated that the disease will return and perhaps be stronger than ever during the fall months. The spread from farm to farm, and species to species, remains a great threat to Ohio’s egg, chicken and turkey farmers alike. All farms must work both individually and collaboratively to prevent the spread of HPAI.

Although there is work underway to determine whether a vaccine might be available to prevent flocks from getting HPAI, many challenges lie ahead, including movement of birds between states and potential federal trade implications. Just last week, USDA announced that a trial vaccine underway was not found to have enough effectiveness against this strain of HPAI and put plans for its introduction on hold pending further research.

Being Vigilant about Biosecurity

Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey farmers must remain vigilant about biosecurity. **Heightened biosecurity programs and robust disease prevention efforts now must be the standard for poultry operations.** USDA has made it clear that the programs of the past are no longer enough, and that compliance with biosecurity requirements is essential.

The below are topline biosecurity recommendations from USDA that all farms should have implemented at this time. Training of farm workers is a critical component of biosecurity – ensure all employees understand the need for these protocols and adhere to them at all times.

- *Identify the top 3 biosecurity hazards – control movement, use trusted suppliers and limit exposure points*
 - People, domesticated birds, other domestic animal, vehicles and equipment
 - Contaminated feed and water
 - Contact with wild or domesticated birds and other animals
- *Mitigate biosecurity hazards to lower the risk of introduction of HPAI to a farm*
 - Cleaning and disinfection of premises, vehicles, equipment and materials
 - Know the recent travel/movement history of potentially contaminated equipment and vehicles (rendering or manure trucks)
 - Provide area for all persons entering farms to clean and disinfect, and to change into clean clothing and footwear
 - Reduce cross-traffic of personnel and vehicles by having separate pick-up locations for mortality and manure in areas used to house birds
 - Limit all unnecessary traffic – arrange offsite delivery dropoff locations if needed
- *Practice specific biosecurity procedures*
 - Keep poultry away from exposure to the shared environments wild or migratory birds
 - Prevent accidental introduction of contaminants – limit or prevent movement, close barn doors, eliminate standing water
 - Clean and disinfect anything or anyone that enters a barn
 - Do not move items, equipment, supplies between barns – replace materials if necessary
 - Use barn-specific boots and coveralls – do not wear protective gear barn-to-barn
 - Always work from the cleanest areas to the dirtiest areas of a multi-house complex, and from the youngest to oldest birds
 - Clean and disinfect all trucks and other vehicles when moving them on or off the farm

Full-scale biosecurity recommendations and additional information is available on the USDA-Animal Health and Plant Inspection Service at aphis.usda.gov. Live links to materials for enhancing biosecurity are below:

- [Questions and Answers: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#)
- [HPAI General Resources and Information](#)
- [HPAI Biosecurity Checklist](#)
- [Emergency Response Procedures—Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
- [Emergency Response Procedures—Depopulation and Disposal](#)
- [Emergency Response Procedures—Appraisal and Indemnity](#)
- [No. 9 Biosecurity sop_hpai_biosecurity.pdf](#)
- [No. 15 Cleaning and Disinfection SOP](#)
- [Antimicrobial Products Registered for Disinfection Use against Avian Influenza on Poultry Farms and Other Facilities](#)