

# Recommended Practices to Protect Avian Health at Indiana Poultry Shows and Exhibitions

Standard biosecurity practices are important for Indiana's poultry community, and recent findings of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) across the country present a higher level of risk to poultry flocks. The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) recommends poultry owners and event organizers increase disease prevention practices before, during and after the event.

## Steps to Take BEFORE the Exhibition

### BIRD MEASURES

#### For Exhibition Organizers:

- Poultry exhibition organizers are required to notify BOAH of events at least 10 days prior to the opening day of the event. Organizers can meet this requirement by registering online ([www.in.gov/boah/2726.htm](http://www.in.gov/boah/2726.htm)), by mail or by email ([animalhealth@boah.in.gov](mailto:animalhealth@boah.in.gov)).
- Arrange event to minimize contact between exhibition birds and wild birds or wild waterfowl.
  - Arrange to house exhibition poultry indoors.
  - Remove food and water sources that attract wild birds.
- Limit the time birds are congregated and commingled at an exhibition. Different species (chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese) should be separated (no physical contact between different species) at the exhibition. Measures might include minimizing the total time birds are on the exhibition grounds. Ideally exhibition birds should be on the facility grounds for no more than 72 hours.
- Minimize interaction between birds from separate flocks.
- Establish a relationship with a veterinarian who will be present or on call for the duration of the exhibition.
- Designate an individual, such as the veterinarian, building manager, or show superintendent, who will be responsible for monitoring the animals for clinical signs, evaluating sick animals and taking additional steps as warranted to minimize the risk of illness in the birds. This individual will contact the Healthy Birds Hotline (866-536-7593), if birds appear sick.
- Establish a protocol to remove sick birds immediately from the exhibition area. Sick birds should not be housed on the exhibition grounds in a "hospital" pen.
- Exhibition organizers are required to maintain records of all participants in the show/event, including:
  - Name, address and contact information for each exhibitor
  - Number and breed/description (i.e., 3 Saxony ducks)

**NOTE: Records must be retained for 3 years.**

- Minimize contact between exhibition birds prior to event (limit meetings where poultry from separate premises are present).
- Consider including the following information in the show catalog or host a meeting with exhibitors prior to the start of the exhibition to distribute the following information:
  - Contact information for a local veterinarian who will see birds
  - Instructions on how to report bird illnesses (Healthy Birds Hotline: 866-536-7593) and explain any specific actions that may be required if a bird becomes sick at the show
  - Review exhibition regulations
  - Review and encourage disease control measures to be utilized during the exhibition, including the daily monitoring of the birds during the show, as well as for when the exhibitor returns home
  - Public health information related to highly pathogenic avian influenza
- Consider consequences, and have a plan for how to proceed, if birds express signs of illness while at the event.
- Discuss biosecurity practices with exhibition staff. Minimize contact between flocks, including movement of people from flock to flock.

#### **For Exhibitors:**

- Birds travelling to Indiana from other states must comply with Indiana's poultry health importation requirements, including a certificate of veterinary inspection written within 30 days and/or NPIP flock status documentation (such as the 9-2 or 9-3). Specific details are online at: [www.in.gov/boah/2391.htm](http://www.in.gov/boah/2391.htm).
- Consult a veterinarian to understand and implement applicable biosecurity and bird health practices at home.
  - Resources are available at: <http://1.usa.gov/1iEZZyX>
- Minimize contact with wild birds and waterfowl.
  - House poultry indoors or, at minimum.
  - Remove food and water sources that attract wild birds.
- Minimize the number of people who have contact with your birds; particularly limit contact between your flock and other people who own birds.
- Avoid personal contact with birds other than your own.
- Avoid personal contact with wildlife, especially wild birds and waterfowl.
- Keep tools and equipment clean.
  - Clean cages and food and water containers daily.
- Wash hands with soap and water and wear clean boots and clothing to work with your birds.
  - Wash and disinfect boots after working with birds.
  - Consider having dedicated boots and clothing for working with your birds.
- 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
- Swelling and/or discoloration of eyes, head, neck
- Tremors, circling, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck
- Seek veterinary assistance if a bird becomes sick.
  - Isolate sick birds immediately by moving them away from other birds and placing in a separate pen.
    - Tend to sick birds **after** tending to healthy birds.
  - If any birds exhibit illness within 14 days prior to traveling to the show, no birds (healthy or sick) from your flock should be taken to any shows or exhibitions.
  - Personally refrain from attending bird shows and exhibitions (even without birds) if your birds are sick.
- 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.
- Refrain from attending another event with your birds for at least two weeks after returning from an exhibition to reduce the risk of spreading disease.

## **HUMAN MEASURES**

### **For Exhibition Organizers**

- Establish methods to communicate rapidly (i.e., email addresses and/or phone numbers from show entry information, social media channels, etc.) with exhibitors about procedural changes or incidents associated with the exhibition.
- Host non animal-related activities (i.e., dances, pizza parties, etc.) in locations other than animal barns.

## **Steps to Take DURING the Exhibition**

## **BIRD MEASURES**

### **For Exhibition Organizers**

- Birds travelling to Indiana from other states must comply with Indiana's poultry health importation requirements, including a certificate of veterinary inspection written within 30 days and/or NPIP flock status documentation (such as the 9-2 or 9-3). Specific details are online at: [www.in.gov/boah/2391.htm](http://www.in.gov/boah/2391.htm).
- If a bird shows clinical signs consistent with influenza or other disease, exhibition staff should be notified as soon as possible, the bird should be removed from contact with other birds and the public, and the ill bird should be reported to the Healthy Birds Hotline (866-536-7593). The bird should be tested for avian influenza. The clinical signs of avian influenza are:

- Sudden death.
- Wheezing, coughing, nasal discharge
- Decreased energy
- Decreased feed intake
- Drop in egg production or egg quality
- Swelling and/or discoloration of eyes, head, neck
- Tremors, circling, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck
- Exhibition staff should call the Healthy Birds Hotline if one or more birds become sick or have an unusual death.
- Record exit/release time of birds and maintain these records with other required records. Records must be retained for 3 years.

#### **For Exhibitors**

- Clean cages, food, and water containers daily.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors.
- Minimize contact between your birds and other birds as much as possible.
- Minimize your own contact with other birds.
- Minimize the number of people who have contact with your birds.
- Observe birds daily for signs of influenza-like illness.
- Report any influenza-like illness to the designated exhibition veterinarian or the appropriate exhibition staff so the bird can be evaluated.
- The individual designated to monitor bird health should call the Healthy Birds Hotline (866-536-7593).
- Birds deemed to be ill should be removed from the exhibition immediately.

### **HUMAN MEASURES**

#### **For Exhibition Organizers**

- Provide easy access to hand washing stations.
- Post informational signage that includes the following messages:
  - No eating or drinking in the animal areas.
  - Wash hands frequently.
  - No pacifiers, sipping cups or strollers in the animal areas.

If influenza-like illness is associated with the exhibition, the Healthy Birds Hotline should be notified immediately.

## Steps to Take AFTER the Exhibition

### **BIRD MEASURES**

#### **For Exhibit Organizers**

- Clean and disinfect the bird exhibition areas. Cleaned and disinfected areas should be allowed to dry completely before restocking.
  - The following products are considered to be effective for disinfection:
    - **Household Bleach:** a 1:32 dilution is best for routine disinfection – ½ cup bleach per gallon of water.
    - **Phenolic Disinfectants:** Lysol, One Stroke Environ – Follow label directions for dilution and necessary contact time.
    - **Quaternary Ammonia Compounds:** Roccal D, Parvosol – Follow label directions for dilution and necessary contact time.

*Remember: Most surfaces should be rinsed following product application before animals are placed back into the area. Follow the label recommendations.*

#### **For Exhibitors**

- 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 at the home facility first, 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.
  - Consult a local veterinarian or the Healthy Birds Hotline at: 866-536-7593 if birds become ill.

### **HUMAN MEASURES**

- The current (2015) circulating strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus are considered very low risk to humans. To date, there have been no known cases of HPAI virus in humans from the current outbreak.
- Consult a health care provider and a local public health official or the Indiana State Board of Animal Health as soon as possible if exhibitors or family members develop influenza-like illness.
  - Inform the health care provider of **close contact** with birds and/or exhibition attendance.
  - 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.