

FOR THIS PLAN TO BE SUCCESSFUL, PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

**Saskatchewan Poultry Industry
Emergency Response Plan**

Producer Manual

2009



SPIEMT



On-Farm Emergency Contact List



**Producers should not conduct media interviews. Media should be handled by the SPIEMT spokesperson.*

ORGANIZATION	NAME	PHONE #	CELL #
Poultry Extension Vet	Dr. Jenny Fricke	(306) 966-7300	
Poultry Extension Scientist	Jocelyn Fournier	(306) 966-6597	
Chicken Farmers of SK	Clinton Monchuk	(306) 242-3611	
SK Egg Producers	Audrey Price	(306) 924-1505	
SK Turkey Producers	Rose Olsen	(306) 931-1050	
Feed company			
Hatchery			
Processor			
Egg grader			
Catching crew			
Equipment repair			
Insurance company			
FARM CONTACTS			
Owner			
Manager			
Employees			
Rural Municipality (#)			
Prairie Diagnostic Services	Saskatoon	(306) 966-7316	
Mobile Crisis Services		1-800-667-4442	
CFIA Emergency Line		1-866-212-0665	
CFIA District Veterinarian			

LAND LOCATION: _____

DIRECTIONS TO FARM:

(Test directions for clarity)





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Abbreviations

AI	Avian Influenza
C&D	Cleaning and Disinfecting
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CFS	Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan
EMO	Emergency Measures Organization
EMT	Emergency Management Team
END	Exotic Newcastle Disease
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
FACS	Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan
FAD	Foreign Animal Disease
FADES	Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support
HP	Highly Pathogenic
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
ILT	Infectious Laryngotracheitis
LPAI	Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza
NAI	Notifiable Avian Influenza
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction (lab analysis for AI)
SA	Saskatchewan Agriculture
SPI	Saskatchewan Poultry Industry
SPIEMT	SK Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team





Introduction

Saskatchewan Poultry Industry Emergency Response Plan

The emergency response plan will serve as a guideline in the event that the poultry industry in Saskatchewan experiences an emergency such as a reportable disease outbreak (notifiable avian influenza, exotic Newcastle disease, fowl typhoid and pullorum disease).

Other emergencies for which this plan may be useful include Acts of God (fires, flooding, tornados, excessive heat or cold, ice storm, etc.) and/or extended power outages, food safety violations, transportation barriers, act of terrorism, as well as feed and water contamination.

The roles and responsibilities of the Saskatchewan poultry producer in the event of a poultry emergency are outlined in this manual.

Members of the Saskatchewan poultry industry have formed a functional team capable of making rapid decisions and responding efficiently in an emergency situation. The Saskatchewan Poultry Industry Emergency Management Team (SPIEMT) consists of members from the following sectors:

- Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Broiler Hatching Egg Producers
- Saskatchewan Egg Producers
- Saskatchewan Turkey Producers
- Hatcheries
- Poultry Meat Processors
- Egg Graders and Processors
- University of Saskatchewan Poultry Extension
- Feed Industry
- Catching Crews
- Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan (FACS)

Government partners have been involved in the planning process so that the emergency response plan complies with their procedures. Key government partners involved in SPIEMT planning include:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- Saskatchewan Agriculture (SA)
- Emergency Measures Organization (EMO)

Contact your board office to get the contact information for your current SPIEMT representative. Include this information on the On-Farm Emergency Form provided in the front of the manual.





What Poultry Disease Symptoms Should I Look For?

Provincially Notifiable Diseases

There are no provincially notifiable diseases in Saskatchewan. However, provincial legislation gives the Minister of Agriculture authority to institute control measures for serious diseases, such as infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT). Initial contact would be with the provincial veterinarian.

Reportable Diseases

Reportable diseases are outlined in the Health of Animals Act and Regulations and are important to human or animal health or to the Canadian economy. Animal owners, veterinarians and laboratories are required to immediately report the presence of an animal that is contaminated or suspected of being contaminated with one of these diseases to a Canadian Food Inspection Agency district veterinarian. Control or eradication measures will be applied immediately.

Reportable diseases under the Health of Animals Act that pertain to poultry include:

- Notifiable avian influenza
- Exotic Newcastle disease
- Fowl typhoid (*Salmonella gallinarum*)
- Pullorum disease (*Salmonella pullorum*)

In the event of an outbreak of a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD), the goal of the CFIA's emergency response is to prevent further spread of the disease and protect animal health. In an Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak, for example, the CFIA would employ its "stamping out" policy in an effort to eradicate the disease.

Actions include:

- The humane destruction of all infected and exposed animals
- Surveillance and tracing of potentially infected or exposed poultry
- Strict quarantine and controls on movement of poultry
- Thorough decontamination of infected premises

Canada can regain its disease free status and resume normal trade in poultry products once the disease control operations are completed and the disease has been eradicated.

Information on reportable diseases provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/guidee.shtml>

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/avflufse.shtml>



Notifiable Avian Influenza

Avian influenza is a contagious viral infection caused by the influenza virus Type "A", which can affect several species of food producing birds (chickens, turkeys, quails, guinea fowl, etc.) as well as pet birds and wild birds.

AI viruses can be classified into two categories based on the severity of the illness caused in birds: low pathogenic (LPAI) and high pathogenic (HPAI), with HPAI causing the greatest number of deaths in birds. Most AI viruses are low pathogenic and typically cause little or no clinical signs in infected birds. However, some low pathogenic viruses are capable of mutating into high pathogenic viruses. There are many influenza subtypes, two of which include H5 and H7. Historically, only the H5 and H7 subtypes are known to have become high pathogenic in avian species. It is these two subtypes (H5 and H7) that are considered Notifiable Avian Influenza (NAI).

Wild birds, especially waterfowl, are natural reservoirs for the influenza viruses. Wild birds are not generally affected by the disease but can still transmit the disease to domestic birds.

The disease can also spread to birds through contact with infected poultry and poultry products, and through manure and litter containing high concentrations of the virus, for example through contaminated clothing and footwear, vehicles and equipment, and feed and water.

Some or all of the following clinical signs are evident in AI infected birds:

- sudden onset of high mortality
- quietness and extreme depression with ruffled feathers
- decreased feed consumption and excessive thirst
- sudden drop in production of eggs, many of which are soft-shelled or shell-less
- wattles and combs become swollen and congested
- swelling of the skin under the eyes
- coughing, sneezing eye discharge and nervous signs
- diarrhea
- haemorrhages on the hock



Cyanotic combs and wattles, swelling under the eyes and haemorrhages on the hock.



Wild bird populations, a natural reservoir for the influenza viruses, are beyond producers' control. Therefore, it is essential for commercial poultry producers to maintain strict biosecurity practices to prevent introduction of the virus in their flock.

On a farm:

- keep poultry confined indoors
- keep away from areas frequented by wild fowl
- keep strict control over access to your poultry houses by people and equipment
- keep equipment cleaned and disinfected before taking it into poultry houses
- do not keep bird feeders or create duck ponds on your property as they attract wild birds
- maintain high sanitation standards

Information on AI provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/avflufse.shtml>

Photos are from the following sources:

National Agricultural Biosecurity Center (Kansas State University) website:

<http://nabc.ksu.edu/content/factsheets/category/Avian%20Influenza>

CFIA presentation to CFS producers: AI SK 2007

University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine website:

<http://www.cvm.umn.edu/ai/>

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Exotic Newcastle Disease

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting all species of birds, but is of particular concern for poultry flocks. END is one of the most infectious diseases of poultry in the world - death rates of 100 percent can occur in unvaccinated flocks. Even vaccinated flocks can experience infections and deaths. END (also known as velogenic viscerotropic Newcastle disease) is one of several types of Newcastle disease - the severity of the disease depends on the type of Newcastle disease virus.

END affects the respiratory, nervous and digestive systems of birds. The incubation period ranges from two to 15 days.

An infected bird may exhibit the following signs:

- sneezing, gasping for air, nasal discharge and coughing
- greenish and watery diarrhea
- depression, muscular tremors, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck circling, and complete paralysis
- partial to complete drop in egg production
- production of thin-shelled egg
- swelling of the tissues around the eyes and in the neck
- sudden death
- increased death loss in a flock



Transmission of infection is mainly by direct contact with diseased or carrier birds. It can spread rapidly among birds in close confinement (e.g. commercial flocks). As there is a high concentration of the virus in birds' bodily discharges, the disease can also be spread unintentionally through human activity. For example, poultry material bearing the virus (such as feathers or manure) could become attached to people's shoes or clothing and carried from an infected area to a healthy flock. As such, it is often spread by people working in the poultry industry, such as manure haulers, truck drivers, poultry buyers, feed delivery services, etc. Even non-industry visitors to poultry operations could become unwitting sources of transmission.

There have not been any cases of END in domestic poultry in Canada since 1973. Sporadic cases have been recorded in migratory birds. It occurs in Central and South America, the Middle East and most of Europe, Africa and Asia. Outbreaks of END have occurred periodically in the western United States.

Information on END provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/newcastle/newcastlefse.shtml>

Photo is from the California Department of Food and Agriculture:

http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/images/avian_health/Picture9.gif

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Fowl Typhoid (*Salmonella gallinarum* infection)

Salmonella gallinarum infection is a disease with high mortality and morbidity that affects adult birds more often than young birds. In chicks and poults, most of the clinical features are similar to Pullorum Disease.

In adult birds, fowl typhoid may go unnoticed, but if clinical signs do occur, they may include:

- sulphur-coloured diarrhea
- listlessness and depression
- decreased appetite and dehydration
- weight loss
- ruffled feathers
- pale and shrunken combs and wattles



Bird to bird transmission of fowl typhoid can occur through infected droppings, dead bird carcasses, and infected clothing, shoes, utensils and other vectors.

Pullorum Disease (*Salmonella pullorum* infection)

Pullorum Disease is caused by the bacteria *Salmonella pullorum* and is transmitted by infected breeder hens through their eggs. Chicks and poults that hatch from infected eggs will have white diarrhea, pasty vents and high mortality. Infected chicks can infect other chicks via droppings. Most acute outbreaks occur in birds that are under three weeks of age. Death may occur soon after hatching without any observable signs. Mortality may approach 90% and survivors are usually stunted and unthrifty.

Clinical signs of a bird infected with *Salmonella pullorum* include:

- droopiness, birds may appear sleepy or weak
- ruffled feathers
- chilled appearance with birds huddling near a source of heat
- labored breathing
- presence of a white diarrhea with a "pasted-down" appearance around the vent
- decreased appetite
- shrill chirping

Adult birds infected with *Salmonella pullorum* usually have no signs of disease but may sometimes appear unthrifty. Infected hens will have internal lesions in the ovary, and may or may not be productive layers. The eggs of infected birds may have reduced hatchability.

Information for Fowl Typhoid and Pullorum Disease was provided by:

Important Poultry Diseases, Intervet International BV

Descriptions of Significant Poultry Diseases, New Brunswick Poultry Disease Emergency Response Plan

Photos are from the following sources:

<http://www.wattpoultry.com/poultryinternational/article.aspx?id=7668> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/t0756e/T0756E190.jpg>

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What Steps Should I Follow if I Suspect a Poultry Disease?

Disease Suspicion

If there is a significant unexplained change in mortality or production, and a poultry disease is suspected, the producer should administer a self quarantine procedure, request the assistance of their poultry veterinarian and/or submit appropriate samples to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory. To ensure that samples yield the best possible results they must be handled in a way that prevents contamination and preserves the viability of the causative organism.

Self-Quarantine Procedure

- Gather all flock documentation (production, health and mortality records)
- Call veterinarian with a description of the problem, time of onset and duration
 - Date & time called: _____
- Submit birds or samples for diagnostic examination by having the veterinarian on-farm for necropsy and sampling collection or by submitting birds/samples to a veterinarian or diagnostic laboratory (see Diagnostic Submission Protocol, pg 12)
 - Date & time submitted: _____
 - Submission #: _____
 - Disease suspected: _____
- Follow all veterinary advice regarding interim treatment of the flock
- Keep disease suspicion confidential until diagnostic confirmation is received, with the exception of courtesy calls to processors, feed companies, etc., whom must keep information confidential
- Contact board office or one of the SPIEMT co-chairs (see Emergency Contact List. pg 2):
 - CEO of Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan
 - GM of Saskatchewan Egg Producers
- Immediately restrict all traffic on farm and implement enhanced biosecurity measures:
 - Cancel or postpone farm appointments, arrange end-of-day deliveries or pick-ups with mandatory vehicle disinfection, lock gates, service affected barns last and if possible, dedicate one employee to affected barn(s)
- Dispose of dead/culled birds on farm (composting/incineration) and treat as infectious material
- Review and update on-farm traffic records: visitor log book, previous bird movement
- If a reportable disease is confirmed, the CFIA and/or producer association will be contacted
- Follow all directions/recommendations of the CFIA and poultry veterinarian
- Keep well maintained records of the incident
- Direct all media inquiries to the SPIEMT co-chairs

Information for self-quarantine procedure from:

Notifiable Avian Influenza and Your Operation, February 2008 Factsheet 151: Producer Self-Quarantine Protocol, Poultry Industry Council, 2004.



Diagnostic Submission Protocol

Step 1: What do I submit?

- Provide all information, visitor logbooks, health records and flock history.
 - Include a complete description of what the problem is (mortality, production drop, reduced water consumption, etc), including date/time of onset, duration, extent (percentages) and whether things are getting worse or better over a defined period of time.
 - Offer your suspicions as to what you think the problem might be.
- Submit a sample from your flock of birds.
- Record submission date & reference number.

Step 2: Where do I submit samples?

1. Request that your poultry veterinarian visit the farm and have him/her provide a tentative diagnosis and submit the appropriate samples.

Poultry Extension Veterinarian
(306) 966-7300

2. The producer or farm manager can take the appropriate samples (dead/affected birds or blood/tissue samples) and submit them directly to the office of their poultry veterinarian or to the provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratory. When transporting a diagnostic sample, it must be packaged to prevent the potential spread of infectious disease.

Prairie Diagnostic Services – Saskatoon
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
52 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5B4
Phone: (306) 966-7316
Fax: (306) 966-2488

Step 3: How should I prepare the samples?

- Blood and tissues samples should be clearly labeled and placed in a closed plastic baggie.
- Swabs should be appropriate for the testing requested. Example: bacterial culture swabs for Staphylococcus, pooled dry swabs for PCR lab analysis. Please call the testing laboratory if unsure.
- Dead birds should be dead for less than 24 hours and kept chilled if you are going to use the birds for sample.
- Live birds must NOT be submitted. One does not want to disseminate the infectious agent which would be impossible to prevent if transporting live birds to the lab.



Step 4: What should I expect?

- Preliminary findings based on the gross lesions seen at necropsy will be forwarded to the appropriate contact person of the suspect premises.
- During the interim between submission and preliminary test results, your veterinarian may recommend initial treatment based on suspected diagnosis formed from the clinical evaluation.
- The treatment that your veterinarian suggests may have to be modified as new test results become available.
- Ensure on-farm biosecurity protocols are being followed and suspend all unnecessary traffic.

Positive Presumption

A veterinarian can declare a presumptive positive diagnosis if there is an unexplained high mortality situation or marked drop in production.

The veterinarian and/or diagnostic lab needs to report preliminary diagnostic results to the CFIA, producer, and provincial and poultry veterinarians.

The CFIA will collect preliminary samples from the diagnostic lab and forward them to the National Centre of Foreign Animal Disease. CFIA will contact the producer and the flock veterinarian to discuss the case. The CFIA district veterinarian will be assigned to investigate the suspected case and may require additional sampling.

Confirmed Diagnosis of a Foreign Animal Disease

Upon confirmation of a FAD, the CFIA will request an official declaration of disease from the Federal Minister of Agriculture.

The CFIA shall initiate emergency response logistics by activating their Emergency Response Team, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and contact the SPIEMT co-chairs to activate the provincial industry response plan. The CFIA contacts the provincial government and they activate the FADES plan to involve the ministries of Agriculture and Health as well as Emergency Operations and Occupational Health and Safety.

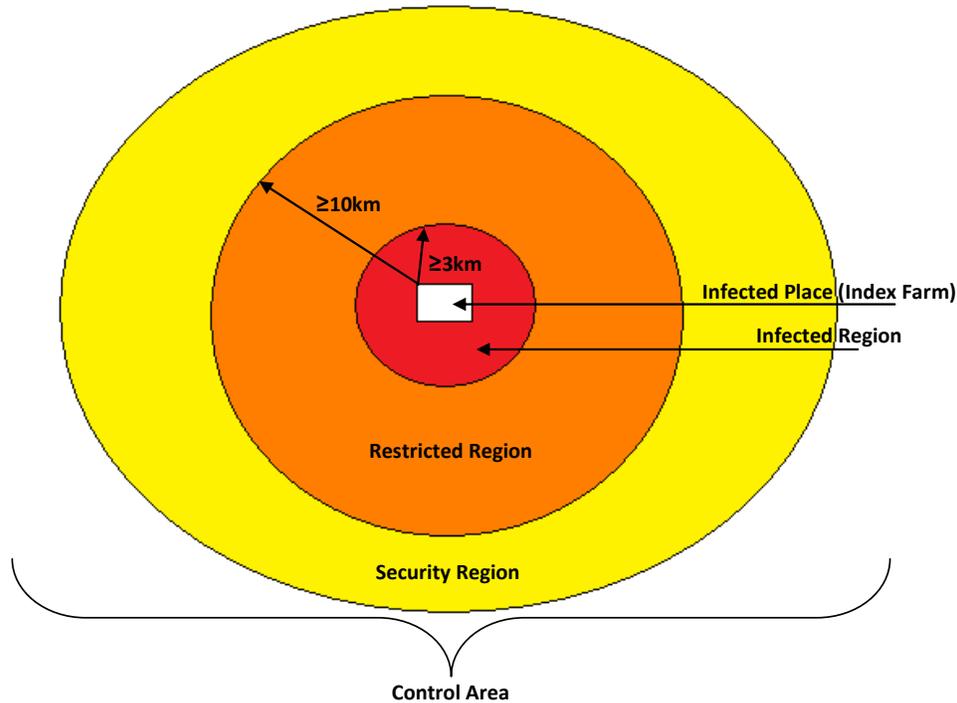
CFIA initiates contact with the producer to inform him and or her that there will be an official declaration of disease. The Federal Minister of Agriculture signs and issues a Declaration of Infection, under the section 22 of Health of Animals Act.

CFIA will define the control area and establish movement restrictions.



Disease Control Zones

Once a FAD has been confirmed, CFIA will implement several disease containment zones. Below is a scenario of an infected farm. If additional farms are declared infected places, the infected and restricted regions would be altered accordingly.



- **Control Area:** The area established by the Minister to control a disease by regulating the movement of persons, machinery, animals, animal products and animal byproducts. This area includes Infected, Restricted and Security Regions and will be designed with the objective of controlling the spread of the virus and minimizing the impact on the poultry industry.
- **Security Region:** The geographic area between the perimeter of the Restricted Region to the edge of the Control Area.
- **Restricted Region:** A minimum 10 km radius measured from the Infected Place that surrounds the Infected Region. The boundaries will be defined by physical geographical barriers.
- **Infected Region:** A minimum 3 km radius surrounding an Infected Place. When possible, natural barriers and roadways will be used to facilitate the implementation of disease control procedures.
- **Infected Place:** The premise where a CFIA Veterinary Inspector presumes or confirms that a FAD exists.

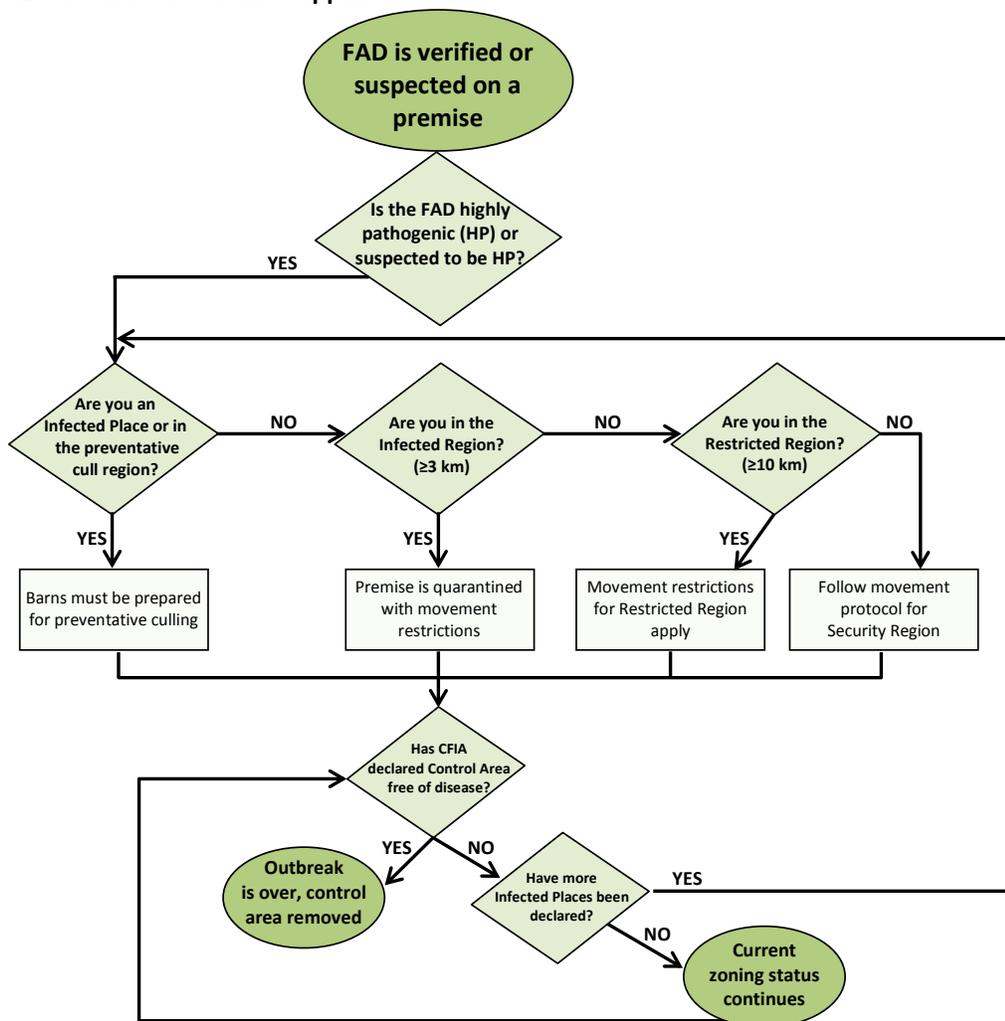


Any farm where birds have tested positive for a FAD will be depopulated. The CFIA has the mandate to humanely destroy any FAD-positive or highly suspicious FAD premises, and is responsible to carry out these actions. Flocks will be humanely destroyed on farm. Whenever possible, poultry carcasses, poultry products, manure and feed from infected farms will be composted or buried on site.

All infected premises are required to be cleaned and disinfected, by the producer, under CFIA supervision according to CFIA protocols.

Information from: "Notifiable Avian Influenza and Your Operation: Your guide to what you need to know when Avian Influenza is detected/The Principles of AI Disease Control," February 2008.

FAD Confirmation - What Happens Next...





What Additional Biosecurity Measures Should I Take?

When a Poultry Disease is Known or Suspected in Your Vicinity (But It's Not You)

1. Watch your flock and report to your veterinarian and/or board unusual illness or mortality.
2. Use your logbook to record all movement and all visitors on and off the farm, not just within the barns or restricted areas.
3. Review all biosecurity requirements and strictly adhere to them. Make every effort to heighten biosecurity protocols.
4. Restrict movement on and off the farm, including individuals and family. A barrier is recommended, and ensures all access points are blocked. When possible, do all activities through non-contact methods such as telephone.
5. Eliminate or delay all activities that if undertaken, could act as a vector to spread disease. Avoid direct contact with off farm poultry or poultry personnel.
6. **No other farms can be visited.** Do not visit locations of common attendance (coffee shops).
7. Make courtesy calls to suppliers, utility companies, and service providers listed on your emergency contact list so they can implement their own biosecurity procedures. Delay or reduce all service and other farm visits and take extreme caution when allowing necessary visits.
 - Drivers must not enter barn(s) and must reduce foot travel to absolute necessity.
 - Drivers must wear plastic boots (or similar) and deposit them at the farm when leaving. Hand disinfecting, or vigorous washing with warm water and soap prior to leaving is desired.
 - Truck tires and wheel wells must be sprayed with a disinfectant prior to entering and exiting your premises. Believing the truck passed through a potentially infected zone, the driver will proceed to a truck wash where the tires, wheel wells and undercarriage will be cleaned and sprayed with a disinfectant. A disinfectant spray must be applied inside the truck cab to areas such as the floor, steering wheel and door handles prior to returning to base or going directly to another poultry farm.
8. Family members attending activities away from the farm (work, school) should limit access to the barn and follow strict biosecurity protocols to eliminate risks. They should avoid contact with any other feathered species including pet birds.
9. Limit flock management to specific individuals. Designated clothing including footwear should be utilized for each barn. Take special care that no equipment enters or leaves the barn area unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Hand disinfecting or vigorous washing with warm water and soap is also recommended prior to leaving the barn.
10. Make certain other animals such as dogs and cats do not enter the barn or have contact with dead birds. Consider confining these animals at this time.
11. Confinement of mortalities to the farm is recommended until the situation is clear. Dead bird disposal should strictly follow guidelines as outlined by provincial or board regulations. The use of freezers or alternate containment is preferred.
12. Garbage disposal should be well thought out so that care and control of material generated on the farm is maintained until the situation is clear.
13. Ensure you have a supply of consumable items such as extra coveralls, boots, barrier tape, disinfectant, or other similar supplies.

Information from:

Recommendations to Producers with a Poultry Disease Outbreak in the Vicinity, Chicken Farmers of Ontario, June 2005





How Will Birds be Disposed Of?

Disposal methods for FAD-infected birds and materials must be approved by the CFIA and will depend upon local conditions. **In-barn composting** of bird mortality, manure, feed and other poultry products is the ideal disposal method to reduce viral contamination and address environmental concerns; however, this method is not suitable for all poultry production sites.

On-Site Disposal

In addition to in-barn composting, other on-site disposal options include:

- Burial
- Air-forced burning in a pit or container

Off-Site Disposal

Off-site disposal may occur when disposal on the infected premise is not possible. Methods include:

- Rendering
- Burial or burning at a landfill site, available Crown land, or Department of National Defence land

Additional requirements for off-site disposal options include:

- Carcasses must be sprayed with disinfectant prior to removal
- Biosecure transport of material following an approved specific route with the appropriate permit(s) and authorization
- Each truck load must be accompanied by a CFIA employee to its destination
- C&D equipment must be available at the disposal site so the vehicle can be properly decontaminated immediately after unloading
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations must be followed
- If rendered, a CFIA employee must verify the process, and equipment used must be thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated
- Rendered product cannot be used in livestock feed and must be disposed of by burial, incineration or composting

Information on disposal methods was provided by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/plan/plan-4-1e.shtml>

Comment [CN5]: Link doesn't work

Composting References

Composting Poultry Mortalities On-Farm; Poultry Industry Council Factsheet 150, 2005.

http://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/factsheets/fs_150.pdf

Comment [CN6]: Link doesn't work

Composting Animal Mortalities: A Producer's Guide; Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization, January 2005.

<http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=407ede56-6395-4382-a9fc-bcbf7bb8de2f>





What are CFIA's Cleaning & Disinfecting Procedures?

CFIA's C&D protocol for an Infected Place includes Dry Clean, Wet Clean and Disinfection procedures. There are templates available that comply with CFIA's C&D requirements. Please contact your provincial board office for the most current version.

For additional information regarding C&D procedures, please refer to the following CFIA websites:

Section 4.1.9 Decontamination *in* Part 4 - Emergency Response, Notifiable Avian Influenza Hazard Specific Plan, May 2007.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/plan/plan-4-1e.shtml>

Comment [CN7]: Link needs to be updated

Section 3.13 Cleaning and Disinfection *in* 3. Regulatory Controls, Common Procedures Manual

http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/man/cpmmpc/cpmmpc_3_9-14e.shtml#3.13

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