

BIOSECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING THE EVERYDAY RISK OF INTRODUCTION OF DISEASE INTO A POULTRY FLOCK

Disease agents – such as bacterial or viral pathogens – are easily introduced onto a farm by people, vehicles, farm equipment, and animals, including poultry brought into an operation. Some pathogens are ubiquitous. Organic material, including manure, feathers, and dust, are the primary means by which such agents can be carried.

Listed below are measures that can reduce the risk of bringing disease agents onto a farm. They are important even when there are no signs of infection nearby.

The following recommendations are intended to guide the development of more thorough and complete biosecurity practices on each and every farm.

GROWERS, FARM MANAGERS, AND HIRED HELP

- ❑ Minimize the number of your visits to other poultry facilities. Avoid visiting farms or auctions that may have poor biosecurity practices.
- ❑ Wear clean protective clothing or clothing dedicated to the farm prior to entering poultry houses.
- ❑ When visiting other farms or auctions with poultry, wear disposable outerwear and then dispose of it, or change your clothes and clean your boots before returning to your own property. Notify a company representative if you observe others not following good biosecurity.
- ❑ Minimize the number of visitors and vehicles on your property, and keep any visitors away from the poultry.
- ❑ Post “Biosecurity/Disease Control Area” signs at the farm entrance, and have visitors sign a visitor log.
- ❑ Keep your poultry house locked. Allow only essential personnel into your poultry house. Provide clean or disposable coveralls, head covers, and plastic boots or boots that can be cleaned and disinfected for personnel who must enter the house.
- ❑ Be sure that visitor guidelines are followed when a service call is needed (see the protocol [Biosecurity Measures for Visitors to Poultry Farms](#) (6-9-AI-P02 in the DEM ERP).
- ❑ Hold training on biosecurity for service technicians, hatchery personnel, feed mill personnel, live-haul personnel, and growers.
- ❑ Require that personnel avoid keeping their own birds and they they change outerwear when moving between poultry houses.
- ❑ Require that disinfecting foot baths be used and are placed at outside entries to the poultry house and egg room. Change the disinfectant in the foot baths daily.
- ❑ Avoid any contact with live bird markets (LBMs) and non-commercial poultry.
- ❑ Do not share equipment or vehicles with other farms. If you must, insist that vehicles and equipment entering your premises be cleaned and disinfected. (Personnel and equipment that have been in direct or indirect contact with the Live Bird Markets pose a great risk).

- ❑ Trucks from a Live Bird Market should not be going directly to any farm to load birds. It is recommended that birds are taken to a central location for loading onto trucks for the Live Bird Market. Vehicles transporting birds should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before returning to the farm. Special attention should be paid to the crates. If you must allow trucks from the LBM onto your premises, do not allow personnel or crates from the LBM to enter your poultry house(s) unless those personnel are wearing proper clothing and crates have been cleaned and disinfected.
- ❑ Insist that supplies brought to your premises (egg flats, carts, etc.) be new (if disposable) or be washed and disinfected (plastic flats, carts, shelves, or dividers). When hired and annually, companies must perform a documented assessment of service tech contact with other poultry or bird species.
- ❑ Follow the “all-in/all-out” philosophy of flock management.
- ❑ Do not allow pets, or wildlife or other livestock to enter poultry areas. Protect open range or backyard poultry flocks from contact with wild birds and water that may have been contaminated by wild birds. Use screening as necessary to prevent wild bird entry into poultry houses.
- ❑ Practice effective rodent and insect control. Maintain fly and rodent control devices properly.
- ❑ Keep workrooms clean.
- ❑ Control weeds around poultry areas.
- ❑ Purchase birds from tested flocks and trusted sources.
- ❑ Dispose of dead birds safely (incineration, burial, composting, rendering). Never pile dead birds outside of a building or spread in fields.
- ❑ Comply with applicable disease surveillance protocols.
- ❑ Report any increased illness or mortality to your company or to the RI DEM Division of Agriculture at (401) 222-2781.

SERVICE TECHS AND BREEDER SERVICING CREW

- ❑ Park a minimum of 50 feet from the first poultry house you approach, unless onboard or hand disinfectant sprayers are used.
- ❑ Keep vehicle windows closed on farms.
- ❑ Service Technicians must put on clean coveralls, hairnets, and boots (rubber or disposable) prior to entering poultry houses.
- ❑ Clean and disinfect all equipment before entering houses.
- ❑ Use hand sanitizer or disposable gloves before entering and when exiting houses.
- ❑ Clean and disinfect vehicles inside daily; outside weekly.

FEED MILL

- ❑ Wash trucks to remove mud and debris to the extent needed to allow effective operation of onboard disinfectant sprayers.
- ❑ Clean and disinfect the cabs on feed trucks with aerosol product daily. Spray the floors and pedals with approved disinfectant.

HATCHERY

- ❑ All drivers are to wear boots (rubber or disposable).
- ❑ Egg trucks are to be cleaned and disinfected inside daily and outside as needed.
- ❑ Chick/poult delivery trucks should be kept clean inside and outside.
- ❑ Spray insecticide inside trucks as needed to eliminate the transporting of flies from farm to farm.
- ❑ Egg racks and trays must be washed and disinfected before leaving the hatchery.
- ❑ Wash chick/poult boxes and delivery carts at least once per week.
- ❑ Hatchery waste trucks going to rendering need to be cleaned and disinfected before returning. Loads should be hauled at the end of the day. Sweep out the cab and spray pedals and floorboard with an approved disinfect. Spray insecticide as needed.
- ❑ Eggs brought to hatcheries should be from source flocks participating in NPIP or other disease monitoring programs.

LIVE HAUL (Single Age)

- ❑ All equipment must be cleaned and disinfected as needed.

LIVE HAUL (Multi Age)

- ❑ All equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between farms.

DEAD BIRD DISPOSAL

- ❑ Composting must be managed properly to ensure carcasses are covered to prevent exposure to wild animals and to maintain adequate temperatures for composting.
- ❑ When on-farm incineration is used, carcasses must be protected from exposure to wild animals.
- ❑ Farms should not share disposal facilities. Rendering can be used for daily mortality, if approved by company management. Growers that use rendering must clean and disinfect vehicles prior to returning to their farm, and vehicles transporting carcasses should not travel from farm to farm to pick up daily mortality for delivery to the rendering plant.

The RI DEM Division of Agriculture reserves the right to amend the above mentioned requirements for Avian Influenza with the goal of any changes still being to prevent, contain and eliminate the disease. Changes to the general guidelines of the protocol may result from information including, but not limited to, virus strain, pathogenicity, morbidity and mortality, movement of birds and products, and additional epidemiological information obtained as a result of avian influenza investigations.