

To all event coordinators requesting a poultry ban exemption proposal:

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) understands the importance of having livestock and poultry exhibitions, especially to our FFA and 4H groups. The ban targets high risk animals and events to mitigate the ongoing spread of the H5N1 Bird Flu virus. High risk scenarios involve the movement of infected animals with exhibitions at shows and fairs being the highest risk. These events provide a single point location for multiple animal species originating from multiple locations across the nation to commingle and interact with the public. Additionally, when multiple species are gathered in the same area, this increases the chances for the H5N1 virus to mutate into other animal species.

As of May 2025, the ban on all California poultry and dairy cattle remains in place due to active infections of H5N1 Bird Flu across the state. Based on the current rate of viral spread, our State Veterinarian with CDFA's animal disease response team has modified the minimum biosecurity requirements to host a poultry exhibition outlined as follows:

- For exhibitions held within known H5N1 affected areas in the state, entries will be limited to regions that have been exposed to H5N1. For exhibitions held in regions in the state not known to be positive for H5N1, entries will be limited to areas known to be free of disease.
- Classes of poultry allowed to show:
 - Chickens, turkeys, waterfowl (ducks, geese, etc), and upland game birds (pheasants, chukars, etc.).
 - An NPIN for the farm of origin will be required for each poultry/flock.
 - Any event where poultry will be exhibited virtually only throughout the entire event does not require an exemption proposal.
 - Pigeons, psittacine, doves, Soft Bills, and Hookbills, are not impacted by this ban but all avian species are susceptible to the virus.
- Biosecurity Manager

The event must designate a biosecurity manager for the event. The biosecurity manager will be required to complete biosecurity training conducted either by CDFA or from an equivalent biosecurity training program within the last two years from the event. The biosecurity manager will be responsible for ensuring that:

 - All CDFA minimum biosecurity requirements are met
 - All event space specific biosecurity requirements are met
 - All birds will be evaluated by a Poultry Health Inspector (PHI) or veterinarian on the day of arrival. Sick birds are not permitted on the premises.
 - Hand washing/hand sanitizing stations will be placed at all entry and exit points of poultry barns/show rings.

- Exhibitors will provide their own feed and watering equipment that will not be shared between participants (unless from the same household/farm).
- Poultry will not be allowed on site at the same time as dairy cattle.
- The public will not have any direct contact with exhibited poultry.
- Pens and poultry equipment will be cleaned and disinfected with a disinfectant labeled for “Avian Influenza A Virus”.

If a poultry exhibition event does not include ALL the outlined minimum biosecurity requirements above, an exemption proposal must be submitted. A general template of an exemption proposal can be found on the following pages of this document.

Due to the volume of proposals CDFA is receiving, it may take four (4) to six (6) weeks for a determination. This will provide our veterinarians who are responding to the Bird Flu outbreak an opportunity to assess your proposals. Approved exemptions are for only a single event for which the proposal is submitted. Approvals may change due to the virus outbreak status (Ex. Biosecurity requirements may become more stringent or may be lifted completely).

It is recommended that all events provide a statement to participants in advance stating that all poultry and dairy cattle entries may be denied closer to the event if it is determined that the risks associated are too high.

We hope that you understand and support us in our efforts to safeguard California agriculture, to minimize the risks for disease spread to additional flocks, herds, and people.

Submit proposals to: cdfa.HPAInfo@cdfa.ca.gov

Note: Words in grey are examples for your convenience.

Event Name:

Date of Event:

Address of the Event:

To CDFA Poultry Exhibition Exemption Assessor,

We understand that the following minimum requirements are required to qualify for a one-time exemption to hold a poultry exhibition event. The specific biosecurity measures outlined below will be implemented to qualify for the one-time event exemption. These measures will assist in protecting participants, livestock, surrounding livestock communities, and the public from exposure to the H5N1 virus.

Traceability: An NPIN for the farm of origin will be required for each poultry/flock.

Classes of Poultry Allowed to Show (describe your show and classes of poultry):

- Broiler chickens
- Laying chickens
- Entries are limited to poultry from (state specific local regions)

Describe Entry Testing Requirements (if applicable):

- All chickens will have a negative pullorum test

Biosecurity Requirements for Exhibitors/Visitors:

[Name] has been designated as biosecurity manager for the event. [Name] will be responsible for ensuring that:

- All event space specific biosecurity requirements are met
- All biosecurity requirements listed in this proposal are met
- The biosecurity manager will be required to complete biosecurity training conducted either by CDFA or from an equivalent biosecurity training program within the last two years from the event.

The designated biosecurity manager will ensure the following are met:

- All CDFA minimum biosecurity requirements are met
- All event space specific biosecurity requirements are met
- All birds will be evaluated by a Poultry Health Inspector (PHI) or veterinarian on the day of arrival. Sick birds are not permitted on the premises.
- Hand washing/hand sanitizing stations will be placed at all entry and exit points of poultry barns/show rings.
- Exhibitors will provide their own feed and watering equipment that will not be shared between participants (unless from the same household/farm).

- Poultry will not be allowed on site at the same time as dairy cattle.
- The public will not have any direct contact with exhibited poultry.
- Pens and poultry equipment will be cleaned and disinfected with a disinfectant labeled for “Avian Influenza A Virus”.

Minimum Biosecurity Requirements for the Facility Following the Show:

- Pens, livestock equipment, feed and water troughs will be cleaned and disinfected with a disinfectant labeled for “Avian Influenza A Virus”.

Event managers and exhibitors assume their own risk for the potential for disease transmission while participating in the show.

Sincerely,

[Name or Requestor]

[Role of Requestor]

[Best contact method(s) for Requestor]