February 2020

Biosecurity Practices to Minimize Risk of Spreading Avian Diseases
Poultry Show and Exhibition Organizers

Biosecurity means doing everything you can to protect your birds against disease. Standard biosecurity practices are important for California's poultry community at all times. Here are some recommendations for Exhibition Organizers:

Before the Exhibition

Advise exhibitors that if their birds show any sign of illness, they should not bring any birds nor attend the exhibit themselves.

- Arrange bird display areas to minimize contact between exhibition birds and wild birds/wild waterfowl.
  - House exhibition poultry indoors (or at minimum, within a screened area)
  - Remove food and water sources that attract wild birds
- House different species (e.g. chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese) separate from each other.
- Minimize the total time birds are on the exhibition grounds - Ideally, exhibition birds should be on exhibition grounds for no more than 72 hours.
- Require that a veterinarian and/or poultry health inspector (PHI) be present during the exhibition to:
  - Monitor birds for clinical signs of disease,
  - Evaluate sick birds, and
  - Take additional steps as warranted to minimize the risk of illness in the birds.
- Designate an isolation pen/area where there is no contact with any other birds, and contact with humans is minimal.
- Establish a system to maintain records of individual bird identification (e.g. leg bands), source farms, and owner contact information to enhance the speed and accuracy of an animal disease investigation associated with the exhibition.
- Host a meeting with exhibitors prior to the start of the exhibition to discuss:
  - Role of designated exhibition veterinarian/PHI
  - How to report bird illnesses
  - Required actions for sick birds at the show
  - Exhibition regulations
  - Disease control measures to be utilized before, during, and after the exhibition
  - Methods of communications of avian health issues including potential enhanced biosecurity measures at the event (e.g. email addresses and/or phone numbers from show entry information, social media channels, etc.)
- Develop a fair biosecurity plan with exhibition staff to minimize contact between flocks, including movement of people from flock to flock.
- Host non-animal-related activities (i.e. dances, pizza parties, etc.) in locations other than animal barns.

During the Exhibition

- Require check-in of all birds.
- Make sure that your exhibition veterinarian/PHI station are well identified.
- Ensure that all birds are adequately identified and that identification, along with name and on-site contact information for owner(s), is recorded upon arrival at the show or exhibition.
- Require out-of-state exhibitors to provide a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days for all birds attending the show or exhibition.
- Consider requiring exhibitors to provide a "poultry health declaration" upon arrival at the show or exhibition stating:
  - No known exposure of your flock to sick birds , and no poultry deaths on your premises within the past 10 days and
  - No clinical signs of illness, including respiratory or neurologic disease, within the past 10 days.
- Signs of disease include:
  - Sudden death,
  - Wheezing, coughing, nasal discharge,
  - Green watery diarrhea,
  - Depression,
  - Decreased feed intake,
  - Drop in egg production or egg quality,
  - Swelling and/or discoloration of eyes, head, neck, combs, or wattles, and/or
  - Tremors, circling, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck.

To report an unusual number of sick or dead birds, call: **Sick Bird Hotline (866) 922-2473**

www.cdfa.ca.gov

- Record exit/release time of birds.
- Require exhibitors to immediately notify event staff of any bird displaying signs of illness.
- Immediately remove and isolate sick birds.
- Consult with a veterinarian to determine what diagnostic testing should be performed.

For Exhibit Visitors

- Provide easy access to hand washing/sanitizer stations.
- Post informational signage that includes the following messages:
  - Do not touch birds or cages,
  - No eating or drinking in the animal areas,
  - Wash hands before entering and after exiting exhibit areas, and
  - No pacifiers, sipping cups, or strollers in the animal areas.

CDFA Animal Health Branch
Headquarters - (916) 900-5002
Redding District - (530) 225-2140
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500
Ontario District - (909) 947-4462
USDA-APHIS-VS (916) 854-3950 or (877) 741-3690

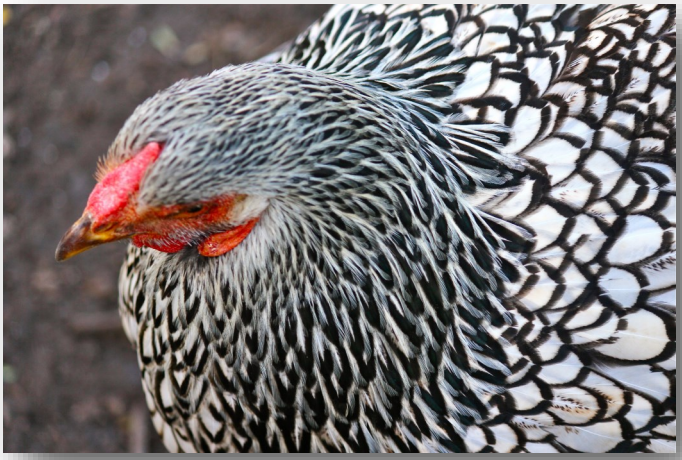
For more information, please click the following:
Animal Health Branch
Avian Health Program

After the Exhibition

- Clean and disinfect (C&D) the bird exhibition areas and allow these areas to completely dry before restocking.

For Exhibit Visitors

- If exhibitors or family members develop influenza-like illness or long-lasting conjunctivitis, consult a health care provider and a county public health official as soon as possible:
  - Inform the health care provider of close contact with birds.
  - 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.



Photos courtesy of: we-english.co.uk (front), Dr. Robert Czarniecki (back left), Tracy O'Brien (back upper-right), and Kecia O'Sullivan (back bottom-right)