September 17, 2018

Avian Influenza Update and Biosecurity Advisory

All poultry owners in California:

Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI), North American lineage H7N3, was confirmed in an organic poultry flock in Stanislaus county on September 11, 2018. A second flock in the immediate vicinity has also been confirmed positive for the same strain of LPAI.

Because wild bird surveillance over the past several years has demonstrated that migrating waterfowl and other wild birds can carry and spread this disease, please separate your poultry from wild birds to the greatest extent possible for the next three months. Particularly if you house poultry in an area with migrating waterfowl in the vicinity, keep your birds under a cover or indoors if possible. Also, keep in mind that feces or other infective materials associated with wild birds can spread disease, so continue to implement enhanced biosecurity. Examples include: employee education intended to minimize the risk of inadvertently carrying virus onto your facility, ensuring that personal protective gear or dedicated shoes and clothing are used when entering live bird areas, controlling human and equipment traffic flow to best protect your flocks, verifying that your cleaning and disinfection procedures are adequate and are being followed every time, and most important, strictly limiting people that come into contact with your live bird areas, including a temporary deferral of government inspection where possible.

We will reassess the risk by December 1, 2018 and rescind or modify this request based on additional disease investigation information. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Annette Jones
State Veterinarian
California Department of Food and Agriculture