



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

BIOSECURITY MEASURES FOR POULTRY AT FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Fair/Exhibition Poultry Superintendents

Due to the recent Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) detection in wild birds and domestic poultry in Florida, it is recommended that fairs with poultry exhibitors make the following preparations to minimize introduction and spread of influenza. Thank you for doing your part to safeguard the health of poultry in the state of Florida!

Pre-Fair or Exhibition Biosecurity Checklist

- ✓ Prepare an isolation area away from the primary population for potential sick birds. Ideally this would be in a separate airspace, can accommodate 5% of the registered population, and have separate people taking care of those birds.
- ✓ Thoroughly clean and disinfect cages, feed and water bowls, and barns before use.
- ✓ Establish handwashing stations at each barn.
- ✓ Obtain, distribute, and frequently use gel hand sanitizers.
- ✓ Obtain and display signage regarding barn sanitation policies (no eating or drinking in barns, wash hands before and after handling birds).
- ✓ Discuss the possible need for specific poultry vaccinations with a veterinarian.
- ✓ Provide biosecurity and HPAI information to all poultry exhibitors.
- ✓ Arrange for a veterinarian or Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) representative to examine birds for exhibition before entry.
- ✓ Remind exhibitors to:
 - Consider purchasing new birds from [National Poultry Improvement Plan](#) disease-free sources.
 - Separate new birds for at least 30 days before mixing with the rest of their flock.
 - Avoid contact between poultry and other birds, including waterfowl and wild birds.
 - Do not allow anyone to visit their flock.
 - Dedicate specific clothes and shoes for working with their home flock and dedicate separate clothing and footwear for shows.
 - Acquire feed from trusted sources and protect from rodents, wild birds, and moisture.
 - Give birds fresh drinking water, not potentially contaminated water from ponds or puddles.
 - Do not bring sick birds to the exhibition

- ✓ Have a communication plan for exhibitors, public and press in case HPAI is detected at the fair.
- ✓ In the event of a HPAI detection at the fair, be prepared for staff to provide care for the birds for a period of at least 2 to 6 weeks.

Biosecurity Considerations during a Fair or Exhibition

- Avian Health
 - Do not let sick birds into the fair! This includes any signs of respiratory disease (nasal/ocular discharge, swelling), weight loss, lethargy, ruffled feathers, lameness, or other signs of illness. Birds with lice, nits, or mites should also be denied entry.
 - Maintain records so exhibitors can be contacted in case of disease concerns at or after the fair.
- Veterinary Examinations
 - Consider having a private veterinarian or Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services representative available to conduct an examination of birds, as needed.
 - Bird must be sent home if the fair veterinarian or FDACS representative deems it unfit to exhibit.
- Housing
 - Keep waterfowl and chickens in different barns whenever possible to decrease risk of avian influenza. If they must be housed closely together due to space limitations, put waterfowl at the opposite end of the barn or install a solid barrier between cages.
 - Group birds by age and prevent mixing of young birds with adult birds.
 - Provide as much space between birds as possible.
 - If cages must be stacked, use protective barriers to prevent feces, water, feed, and bedding from dropping into lower cages.
- Cleaning and Disinfection
 - Clean and disinfect cages between classes of birds and at the end of the fair.
 - Do not put birds in soiled cages with soiled feed dishes and water bowls.
 - Require judges to sanitize hands after handling each bird.
- Public Health Concerns
 - Do not let exhibitors or the public eat or drink in barns.
 - Discourage pacifiers, sippy cups, and strollers in barns.
 - Do not let exhibitors or the public handle birds without washing or sanitizing hands before and after. This means having handwashing stations and/or gel sanitizer available.
 - Discourage fairgoers from entering the poultry barn if they are ill, especially if they have flu-like symptoms.
- Avian Biosecurity
 - Do not allow exhibitors to handle another exhibitor's birds without permission and without washing hands or changing gloves before and after.
 - Do not allow exhibitors to share equipment.

- Encourage each exhibitor to bring their own carpet square to use during classes.
- Keep pests such as wild birds and rodents out of poultry facilities, and control flies if possible.
- Do not allow pets in poultry facilities.
- Do not allow birds to have contact with livestock, especially swine.

In the Event of a Sick Bird or Death During the Exhibition

- Management must contact the show veterinarian and a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services representative immediately.
- Management should plan to provide transportation of the dead animal or samples to the [Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory](#) in Kissimmee, FL.
- Move sick bird and cohorts entered in the fair to a predetermined isolation area.

Additional Resources

- If you have any other questions, please contact the FDACS, Division of Animal Industry, at (850) 410-0900. Please visit our website for additional information regarding Avian Influenza and the requirements for moving poultry into the state at, www.FDACS.gov/AvianInfluenza
- USDA Avian Health resources
 - <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian>
 - [USDA Defend The Flock](#)
- Center for Food Safety and Public Health Poultry Diseases, Resources, and Biosecurity <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Species/poultry>
- For more information regarding reporting sick domestic birds, please visit: [Report Sick Birds](#)
- To report sick or dead wild birds, please visit: [FWC Avian Mortality](#)