March 28, 2015

MARCH 2015 AVIAN INFLUENZA CONFIRMATION DISEASE ALERT

As a result of continued influenza surveillance in Minnesota, the following poultry flock has been confirmed of being infected with **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**:

**MNAIU04-15 – commercial turkeys**

a) 18 week commercial toms with elevated mortality/clinical signs  
b) Diagnostic samples collected March 26, 2015 (flock size – 13,000)  
c) **Flock is located in Stearns County, MAPP Code = 73OAK31A**  
d) 5/5 tracheal swab samples were PCR Matrix positive at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. CT values ~ 23. Samples subtyped for H5/H7 PCR was **H5 POSITIVE**. CT value = 27. Samples have been submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) and confirmed – **HPAI H5N2**.

e) Two other flocks on premises  
f) As a result of these test results, the Minnesota H5/H7 LPAI Emergency Disease Management Committee has been notified, prepared with the Board to respond as needed to control and eradicate this AI virus introduction. I do not need to remind you that these reports are major disease events for the Minnesota Poultry Industry and that recognition of the serious nature of this event at all levels is crucial!  
g) The APHIS Stakeholder Announcement is included with this disease alert.
**BIOSECURITY** – now is the time for you and your employees to implement your critical level biosecurity programs. Some important biosecurity practices to consider as part of your programs are:

1. **Poultry should be kept away from areas in which they’d have access to or potentially share an environment with wild birds, especially waterfowl or shorebirds.** Ideally they should be housed indoors.

2. **Barn doors need to be closed at all times.**
   - Consider delaying total cleans of finishing farms during our high risk time period (now-May 15 or ice out). This is to protect you from accidentally dragging something onto your farm/into your barns as well as avoiding damaging thawing driveways which can create watering holes for migrating birds.
   - Equipment (tillers, mortality carts, etc.) need to be inside barns now and not moved outside until May 15 or until ice out. Avoid moving equipment between barns as tires can’t be cleaned well, especially when it’s muddy outside.

3. **Nothing can enter the barn unless it’s been properly cleaned and disinfected.** Equipment (spare parts, loading panels, etc.) need to be stored inside so that wild birds can’t get to it. Trucks (poult trucks, shavings trucks, etc.) are not to driven into the barn.

4. **Use barn specific coveralls and boots.** These should be kept in the barn’s entryway and changed into prior to entering the flock. Coveralls and boots should be removed and left in the entry. Do not wear them outside.

5. **Eliminate standing water** to prevent wild waterfowl from gathering on the farm property.

6. **Address feed spills immediately** to avoid attracting wild birds.

7. **Eliminate unnecessary farm visits** from anyone not essential.

You can stay current with all of the HPAI activities by visiting the Minnesota Board of Animal Health website [https://www.bah.state.mn.us/avian-influenza](https://www.bah.state.mn.us/avian-influenza). It has been revamped and upgraded to provide the most up-to-date and pertinent information.

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In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative formats of communication upon request by calling 651-296-2942. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-627-3529. The Board of Animal Health is an equal opportunity employer and provider.