May 13, 2015

Please note: As part of control and eradication efforts, movement into and out of control areas is restricted. Please call the MN Poultry Hotline number at 651-201-6817 for permits.

MAY 2015 AVIAN INFLUENZA SUSPECT DISEASE ALERT

As a result of continued influenza surveillance in Minnesota, the following poultry flock has presumptive positive avian influenza test results:

MNAIU88-15 – commercial egg-layer chickens (Renville #2)
   a) Commercial egg-layer chickens with increased mortality (625 days old)
   b) Diagnostic samples collected May 13, 2015
   c) Flock is located in Renville County, MAPP Code = 65EMME04A
   d) 4/4 tracheal swab samples were PCR Matrix positive at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. CT values ~18-21. Samples subtyped for H5/H7 PCR were H5 POSITIVE. CT value ~25-28.

* Samples will be submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for confirmation.

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**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.**
   a. 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.
   b. 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 (poultrucks, 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.