



AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

Animal Health Section

Dr. Kristin Haas, State Veterinarian

http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health

www.Agriculture.Vermont.Gov 116 State Street • Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901 • (802) 828-2421 • (802) 828-5983 FAX

Poultry Producer, Owner, Enthusiast, or Interested Citizen:

As you may be aware, a disease called the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) affected a number of farms in the mid-West last year. While there have been no human cases of HPAI virus detected in the United States or internationally, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to people from HPAI infection to be low, domestic poultry are highly susceptible to HPAI H5 virus, which can spread rapidly from bird to bird and typically results in high mortality rates. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets is encouraging poultry owners, producers and enthusiasts to prepare for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which is expected to impact the East Coast in the fall of this year or spring of 2016.

The disease is most commonly spread to domestic poultry by infected waterfowl, through direct contact or contact with droppings, during migration periods. Therefore, the entire Northeast, including Vermont, is preparing for the possibility that an outbreak of HPAI could affect our region this fall or during the spring of 2016. While the HPAI outbreak has not yet been identified in Vermont, poultry producers and poultry owners should be familiar with the disease, how it is spread, and preparedness efforts that they can engage in now.

All poultry owners, whether they are backyard hobbyists or commercial producers, should evaluate their farms for risk factors that could contribute to avian influenza occurring on their farms. Risk factors include:

- Poultry housed outside.
- Ponds or other water fowl attractants on the farm.
- Piles of debris located close to poultry areas.
- Introduction of poultry from other farms without a quarantine period.
- Lack of personal protective equipment such as dedicated coveralls and boots.
- Sharing of equipment between farms.

Poultry owners should **fill out and return to VAAFM** the Producer Preparedness: Biosecurity Audit Form which details information that will be required for farms to move poultry and livestock, equipment, and production related conveyances on and off of the property in the event of an HPAI outbreak. The form can be accessed through the following link and returned to VAAFM via email, mail, or fax:

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- Email: agr.animalhealth@vermont.gov
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All poultry owners, regardless of size and business structure, should engage in the following disease preparedness measures:

- **Obtain a federal premises identification number by calling the State Veterinarian's Office at (802) 828-2421. A unique farm identifier will aid regulatory officials in providing information to owners pre-outbreak and assisting owners with disease control and business continuity during a disease response.**
- **Complete the Producer Preparedness: Biosecurity Audit Form and return to VAAFM – when there is an outbreak, this information will be needed in order for farms in a disease control area to be able to continue movement on and off their farm.**
 - This form is accessible on the VAAFM website: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health
- Keep poultry away from wild birds, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds, and remove wild bird attractants from poultry housing areas.
- If poultry are housed indoors, don't let wild birds (or their fecal material) into barns.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment prior to entry into a barn or poultry housing area.
- Use barn-specific boots and coveralls and consider using boot baths/washes.
- Do not bring disease home with you - if you exhibit your poultry at fairs or swaps, do not share cages or equipment with other poultry owners.
- Familiarize yourself with signs of illness in your birds and call the State Veterinarian's Office if you see nasal discharge, difficulty breathing, lethargy, discolored wattles or combs, a drop in egg production, or sudden death.

Commercial poultry producers should take additional proactive steps to increase the likelihood of continued business profitability in the event of a disease outbreak, such as:

- Evaluating your farm's carcass disposal options and contacting the Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation Waste Management and Prevention Division for a site evaluation and technical assistance: (802)828-1138.
- Ensuring easy access to complete farm records that include live poultry and poultry product movement on and off the property and other non-poultry related routine farm traffic such as veterinary visits, feed deliveries, or service technicians.
- Implement and consistently utilize a visitor's log.
- Evaluate and plan for product storage if in the event of an outbreak your farm is not able to move product.
- Initiate conversations with your markets to determine if they will accept your product during an outbreak.





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- If you are an organic farm, review with your certifying organization the possibility of raising your birds indoors, should such measures become necessary.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to people from these HPAI H5 infections to be low. No human cases from these HPAI H5 viruses have been detected in the United States or internationally. Influenza in poultry does not constitute a food safety risk.

All bird owners, whether commercial producers or backyard enthusiasts, are encouraged to practice good biosecurity, prevent contact between their birds and wild birds, and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, either through the Vermont Agency of Agriculture at (802)828-2421 or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.



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Subject: Fwd: [EMD0ALL] Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Information - Request for Dissemination Action

From: ritareg@comcast.net

Date: Wed, 23 Sep 2015 19:05:38 -0400

To: dbillado80@hotmail.com

For your information.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Sears, Todd" <Todd.Sears@VERMONT.GOV>

Date: September 23, 2015 at 3:58:02 PM EDT

To: EMD0ALL@LISTSERV.DPS.STATE.VT.US

Subject: [EMD0ALL] Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Information - Request for Dissemination Action

Reply-To: "Sears, Todd" <Todd.Sears@VERMONT.GOV>

Vermont DEMHS EMD Information -

Hello, all-

Please see the attached documents from the State Veterinarian regarding information collection to help prepare the State for potential Avian Influenza expected to affect us in Fall '15 or Spring '16.

You'll see a very useful information sheet on HPAI as well as an audit sheet which should be used to get a better handle on flock locations, numbers, and risk profiles. We request that you pass this information on to your constituencies. Their input would be greatly valued. We thank you in advance for helping the State become more prepared for this significant threat.

Cheers-

trs

Todd R. Sears

Critical Infrastructure Planner

Vermont Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

(m) 802.431.5769

(w) 802.241.5527

"Magnus sclopeta locutus sum"

Zevonus MMIII

From: Haas, Kristin
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 2:58 PM
To: Haas, Kristin
Cc: Mehlenbacher, Shelley; Bothfeld, Diane
Subject: FW: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Information

Hello all,

We are emailing you to request your assistance in helping the Agency of Agriculture's outreach efforts on issues surrounding highly pathogenic avian influenza. The Agency is continuing to provide educational materials to poultry owners within VT, but lack of a mandatory farm registration program makes that direct outreach challenging. As a result, we are hoping that you can share the attached letter and audit form (please note they are meant to accompany one another) with your clients, constituents, colleagues and known poultry owners with whom you interact in the following manner (the content of the attached letter is copied and pasted below for your convenience):

Veterinarians – please share with your clientele

Lillian – please share with town health officers and ask that they share with residents in their towns

Rob and Todd – please share with your town contacts (LEPCs and EMDs) and ask that they share with residents in their towns

Andrea – please share with Rural Vermont members

Jake – please share with F2P members

VLCT – please share with town clerks and ask that they share with residents in their towns

AI advisory committee members – please note this information for yourselves and share widely with others in the organizations you represent

Thank you all for your help with this!

Sincerely,
Kristin

Please note, effective immediately, my new email address is Kristin.haas@vermont.gov

Kristin M. Haas, DVM
State Veterinarian
Director of Food Safety & Consumer Protection
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
(802)828-2426
kristin.haas@vermont.gov
www.agriculture.vermont.gov

From: Mehlenbacher, Shelley
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 12:11 PM
To: Mehlenbacher, Shelley
Cc: Bothfeld, Diane; Haas, Kristin; Kosakowski, Alison
Subject: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Information

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 - Mail: VAAFM Animal Health Section, 116 State Street, Montpelier VT 05620
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Thank you,

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
Avian Influenza Planning Team
116 State Street
Montpelier VT 05620
802-828-2421
Agr.animalhealth@vermont.gov

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture's mission is to facilitate, support and encourage the growth and viability of agriculture while protecting the working landscape, human health, animal health, plant health, consumers and the environment.

Date: _____

Interviewer name/organization: Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets

Interviewee name/organization: _____

A. PREMISES INFORMATION

Farm name: _____

Farm address: _____

Farm (premises) ID: _____ County: _____

Township: _____ Range: _____ Section: _____

Is facility enrolled in NPIP?..... ₁ Yes ₃ No

B. PREMISES CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Contact name: _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

2. Contact name: _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

3. Contact name: _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

4. Flock Veterinarian: _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

C. PREMISES DESCRIPTION

1. Poultry type: ₁ Broiler ₂ Layer ₃ Turkey ₄ Other (specify: _____)
2. Production type: ₁ Meat ₂ Egg ₃ Breeding ₄ Other (specify: _____)
3. Age: ₁ Multiple age ₂ Single age
4. Sex: ₁ Hen ₂ Tom ₃ Both
5. Flock size: _____ # birds
6. Facility type: *[Check all that apply]*
 - Brood
 - Grow
 - Other (specify: _____)
 - Both brooder & grower houses are present on the same premises
 - Breeder
 - Commercial
7. If brooder and grower houses are present on the same premises, are there multiple stages of management (brooding and growing), in the same house? ₁ Yes ₃ No
8. Farm capacity _____ # birds
Number of barns _____ # barns
Barn capacity _____ # birds
9. What is the **primary** barn type/ventilation: *[Check one only.]*
 - ₁ Curtain sided
 - ₂ Environmental control
 - ₃ Side doors
 - ₄ Other (specify: _____)
10. Are cool cell pads used? ₁ Yes ₃ No
If Yes, what is the source of water for these pads? _____
11. Distance in yards of closest body of water near farm: _____ yd

12. Water body type: *[Check all that apply.]*

- Pond
- Lake
- Stream
- River
- Other (specify: _____)

13. What other types of animals are present on the farm?

- a. Beef cattle ₁ Yes ₃ No
- b. Dairy cattle ₁ Yes ₃ No
- c. Horses ₁ Yes ₃ No
- d. Sheep ₁ Yes ₃ No
- e. Goats ₁ Yes ₃ No
- f. Pigs ₁ Yes ₃ No
- g. Dogs ₁ Yes ₃ No
- h. Cats ₁ Yes ₃ No
- i. Poultry or domesticated waterfowl..... ₁ Yes ₃ No
- j. Other (specify: _____) ₁ Yes ₃ No

14. What is the **primary** water source for poultry? *[Check one only.]*

- ₁ Municipal
- ₂ Well
- ₃ Surface water (e.g., pond)
- ₄ Other (specify: _____)

15. Is water treated prior to delivery to poultry?

₁ Yes ₃ No

If Yes, how is it treated and with what? _____

D. FARM BIOSECURITY

1. Is there a house with a family living in it on the property? ₁ Yes ₃ No
2. Is there a common drive entrance to farm and residence? ₁ Yes ₃ No
3. Do you have signage of "no admittance" or "biosecure area" on this property? .. ₁ Yes ₃ No
4. Is there a gate to this farm entrance? ₁ Yes ₃ No
5. Is the gate secured/locked? ₁ Yes ₃ No
If Yes, what hours is it secured? _____
6. Is the farm area fenced in? ₁ Yes ₃ No
7. How frequently is vegetation mowed/bush hogged on the premises? _____ times/month
8. Is facility free of debris/clutter/trash piles? ₁ Yes ₃ No
9. Is there a wash station/spray area available for vehicles? ₁ Yes ₃ No
If Yes, what disinfectant is used? _____
10. Is there a designated parking area for workers and visitors
away from the barns/pens? ₁ Yes ₃ No
11. Is there a changing area for workers? ₁ Yes ₃ No
Do they shower? ₁ Yes ₃ No
12. Do workers don dedicated laundered coveralls before entering
each house on the premises? ₁ Yes ₃ No
13. Do worker wear rubber boots or boot covers in poultry houses? ₁ Yes ₃ No
14. Are the barn/pen doors lockable? ₁ Yes ₃ No
Are they routinely locked? ₁ Yes ₃ No
15. Are foot pans available at barn/pen entrances? ₁ Yes ₃ No
Are they in use? ₁ Yes ₃ No
16. Are foot baths dry (powdered or particulate disinfectant)? ₁ Yes ₃ No
17. Are foot baths liquid disinfectant? ₁ Yes ₃ No

18. Frequency foot pan solutions are changed? _____ times/month
 What disinfectant is used? _____
19. Is there an entry area in the barns/pens before entering the bird area? ₁ Yes ₃ No
20. What pest and wildlife control measures are used on this farm?
- a. Rat and mouse bait stations ₁ Yes ₃ No
- b. Bait stations checked at least every 6 weeks..... ₁ Yes ₃ No
- c. Fly control used..... ₁ Yes ₃ No
- If Yes, type and frequency: _____
- d. Houses are bird proof ₁ Yes ₃ No
- e. Wild birds seen in house..... ₁ Yes ₃ No
- If Yes, type, number and frequency: _____
- f. Raccoons, possums, foxes seen in or around poultry houses ₁ Yes ₃ No
- g. Wild turkeys, pheasants, quail seen around poultry ₁ Yes ₃ No
21. Are biosecurity audits or assessments (company or third party) conducted on this farm? ₁ Yes ₃ No
- If Yes, when was the last audit or assessment conducted? _____
 (Obtain a copy of the result of the audit or assessment if available.)
22. Has this farm been confirmed positive for HPAI? ₁ Yes ₃ No

E. FARM HELP/WORKERS

1. Total number of persons working on farm _____ #
2. Number of workers living on the farm premises who are:
- a. Family..... _____ #
- b. Nonfamily..... _____ #

3. Workers are assigned to: *[Check one only.]*

₁ Entire farm

₂ Specific barns/areas

4. Do the workers have a common break area?

₁ Yes ₃ No

If Yes, location: _____

5. Are workers employed by other poultry operations?..... ₁ Yes ₃ No
6. How often are training sessions held on biosecurity for workers?..... _____ times/year
7. Are family members employed by other poultry operations or processing plants? ₁ Yes ₃ No
If Yes, poultry operation or processing plant: _____
8. Do part-time/weekend help and other extended family members on holidays and vacations? ₁ Yes ₃ No
9. Are workers (full & part-time) restricted from being in contact with backyard poultry?..... ₁ Yes ₃ No
How is this communicated? _____

F. FARM EQUIPMENT

Is the equipment used on this premises farm specific, under joint ownership that remains on this premises, or under joint ownership and used on other farm premises? A list of equipment follows.

1. Company vehicles/trailers:
Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No
If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____
Dates: _____
2. Feed trucks (excess feed):
Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No
If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____
Dates: _____
3. Gates/panels:
Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No
If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____
Dates: _____
4. Lawn mowers:
Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No
If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____
Dates: _____

5. Live haul loaders:

Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No

If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____

Dates: _____

6. Poult trailers: Farm specific?

Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No

If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____

Dates: _____

7. Pre-loaders:

Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No

If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____

Dates: _____

Describe pre-loader cleaning and disinfection procedures:

8. Pressure sprayers/washers:

Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No

If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____

Dates: _____

9. Skid-steer loaders:

Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No

If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____

Dates: _____

10. Tillers:

Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No

If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____

Dates: _____

11. Trucks:

Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No

If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____

Dates: _____

12. Other equipment: _____

Farm specific? ₁ Yes ₃ No

If No, by whom is equipment jointly used: _____

Dates: _____

G. LITTER HANDLING

1. Litter type: _____

2. Supplier/source: _____

3. Is a litter shed present? ₁ Yes ₃ No

4. Do you do partial cleanouts? ₁ Yes ₃ No

If Yes, give dates of last partial cleanout: _____

5. Date of last cleanout: _____ date

Frequency of cleanout: _____ times/month

6. Who does the cleanout?

₁ Grower

₂ Contractor

If contractor, name and location _____

7. Litter is disposed of:

₁ On farm

₂ Taken off site

If taken offsite, name and location: _____

H. DEAD BIRD DISPOSAL

1. Approximate normal daily mortality _____ # birds
2. How is daily mortality handled?
 - a. On-farm: Burial pit/incinerator/composted/other (specify: _____)
 - b. Off-farm: Landfill/rendering/other (specify: _____)
 - c. Off-farm disposal performed by: Owner/employee/other (specify: _____)
 - d. If burial or compost pits are used, are carcasses covered with soil on a daily basis? ₁ Yes ₃ No
3. Contact name of company or individual responsible for disposal:

If rendering is used, include location of carcass bin on the farm map.
4. What is the pickup schedule? _____
5. Does the carcass bin have a cover? ₁ Yes ₃ No
Is it routinely kept closed? ₁ Yes ₃ No

I. FARM VISITORS

1. How many visitors do you have on a daily basis? _____ #
2. Is there a visitor log to sign in?..... ₁ Yes ₃ No
Is it current? ₁ Yes ₃ No
3. Do you provide any outer clothing to visitors entering the farm? ₁ Yes ₃ No
If Yes, identify items of clothing provided: _____

4. Mark the following services that were on the farm when this flock was on the farm. List date of service and name of person (or contract company) and if they had contact with the birds.

Service		Dates	Name	Contact?
Service person	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Vaccination crew	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Moving crew (moving from brood to grow, or pullet house to layer house)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Processing plant load out				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Load-out crew (positive flock)	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If load-out took more than one night, was returning crew the same crew?				<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Truck #/#'s		_____		
Trailer #/#'s		_____		
What plant did flock go to?		_____		
Load-out crew (flock previous to positive flock)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
If load-out took more than one night, was returning crew the same crew?				<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Truck #/#'s		_____		
Trailer #/#'s		_____		
What plant did flock go to?		_____		
Poult delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Rendering pickup	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Litter services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Cleanout services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No
Equipment shared/rented/loaned/borrowed (each of the categories of visitor is likely to be accompanied by equipment of some sort or another)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁ Yes <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ No

Feed delivery Yes No _____ _____ ₁ Yes ₃ No

5. Who makes sure covers are closed after delivery? _____

6. Are feed covers kept closed? ₁ Yes ₃ No

J. WILD BIRDS

1. Do you see wild birds around your farm? Yes No
If Yes, what type of birds? *[Check all that apply.]*
- Waterfowl
 - Gulls
 - Small perching birds (sparrows, starlings, swallows)
 - Other water birds (egrets, cormorants)
 - Other _____
2. Do you see birds all year round? Yes No
If Yes, what type of birds? _____
3. Is there seasonality to the presence of some types of birds? Yes No
If Yes, what type of birds and what seasons do you see them? _____

4. Where are wild birds seen in relation to the farm?
- On adjacent habitats away from facilities and equipment (identify location of habitat on photos)
 - On the farm but not in the barns (identify facilities or equipment birds have contact with)
 - On the farm and sometimes in the barns (identify facilities or equipment birds have contact with)

K. NARRATIVE/COMMENTS

[Empty rectangular box for narrative or comments]

FARM DIAGRAM -Attach a download from satellite imagery if possible. In addition, draw a simple schematic map of the farm site centering with the poultry houses/pens. Identify where the HPAI positive flocks were housed. Also include: fan banks on houses, residence, driveways, public roads, bodies of water, feed tanks, gas tanks, out buildings, waster dumpsters, electric meters, dead bird disposal, parking areas, other poultry sites. Digital photographs, if allowed, are excellent supporting documentation.

North