

Date: August 2017
To: Minnesota Poultry Producers
From: Drs. Dale Lauer and Shauna Voss
Minnesota Board of Animal Health
Subject: NPIP Biosecurity Audit

Greetings,

The 2015 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) event involved poultry producers, companies and animal health officials in Minnesota and other Midwestern states. We can all certainly agree that it was an incident we never wish to experience again! Analysis of the 2015 event and epidemiologic studies indicated that in Minnesota there was a mix of different introductions to a farm and then farm-to-farm spread of the H5N2 HPAI virus. You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as a Minnesota poultry producer who is not affiliated with a company that has a Biosecurity Plan or Biosecurity Coordinator to the best of our knowledge. As the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, we in cooperation with poultry producers would like to ensure that systems are in place to prevent being the first case of HPAI. Without a first case we won't have a second, third or fourth case.

Expectations for preventing or reducing future introductions require increased biosecurity measures from those used prior to the outbreak in most operations. To standardize biosecurity practices and expectations, the USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) proposed an interim rule: "Conditions for Payment of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Indemnity Claims". This rule clarified an existing policy for the payment of indemnity of eggs and provides a formula for the split of indemnity between poultry/egg owners and parties which the owners enter into contracts with to raise or care for the eggs or poultry. The rule also requires large owners and contractors to certify that at the time of detection of HPAI in their facilities, they had in place and were following a biosecurity plan that would prevent the spread of avian influenza. All sectors of the poultry industry recognized the need to incorporate basic biosecurity principles into the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) as accepted minimum management practices that all producers should be able to follow.

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On May 5, 2017 the Minnesota Board of Animal Health along with other NPIP State Agencies were notified that the proposed changes to the NPIP Program Standards were official. This included the 14 Biosecurity Principles (enclosed) which became effective July 5, 2017 and will be required for all commercial poultry premises with the following exemptions: commercial table-egg laying premises with fewer than 75,000 birds; raised for release upland game bird/waterfowl premises that raise fewer than 25,000 birds annually; commercial broiler premises that raise fewer than 100,000 broilers annually; and commercial meat-type turkey premises that raise fewer than 30,000 turkeys annually. Despite these exemptions, most industry experts agree that all commercial poultry operations should participate.

The auditing portion of these principles falls under the oversight of the NPIP Official State Agency in each state. In Minnesota, the Official State Agency (OSA) is the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, and it will be responsible for conducting the audits and providing an audit summary to USDA-APHIS. All audits will be paper audits; there will be no site visits. Producers should be aware that some audits may begin Fall 2017.

Enclosed you will find a form that requests information about your poultry operation, premises and requests a point of contact for further communications. Please complete the form and submit back to the MPTL at the address listed above by September 1, 2017.

Additional Resources

- To view the Biosecurity Principles, Audit Guidelines and a Biosecurity Audit Form, go to the NPIP website (www.poultryimprovement.org). Under the left hand column, select NPIP Program Standards -> Biosecurity Principles.
- For assistance or resources on how to implement these principles on your farm, please work with your veterinarian. Abby Neu with the University of Minnesota Extension-Poultry is also available for assistance at 320-235-0726 x 2019 or neux0012@umn.edu.
- For additional questions on biosecurity and the audit process, go to the Board of Animal Health website (<https://www.bah.state.mn.us/poultry/>).

We thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have questions about the information in this letter, please contact the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory at 320-231-5170.

Sincerely,



Dale Lauer, DVM
Assistant Director
Minnesota Board of Animal Health



Shauna Voss, DVM
Senior Veterinarian
Minnesota Board of Animal Health