

United Egg Producers and American Egg Board
Questions & Responses
USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services
March 15, 2022

- 1.) There is a large poultry industry show (similar to IPPE but smaller) being held in Minneapolis next Tuesday through Thursday. Does the agency have any concerns related to any associated risk of producers attending this show in person?**

This trade show, which to our knowledge has no poultry present at the venue, is a low risk (not zero risk) activity, compared with movements of people, equipment, and vehicles to premises with poultry. With basic biosecurity precautions and advisories to attendees, the risk of participants indirectly spreading HPAI virus can be mitigated. We suggest that attendees shower and change to clean clothes and footwear before and after visiting the show.

- 2.) Can HPAI live in a manure lagoon? Or is it killed in the lagoon process?**

Avian influenza virus requires a living host to survive and replicate. Outside of a living host, the virus is inactivated with time. The biological processes occurring in wastewater lagoons and other bodies of water will inactivate avian influenza virus over days to weeks, depending on several environmental factors such as temperature.

- 3.) If packaging materials are stored in the processing and egg storage areas of an inline complex, will those packaging materials need to be destroyed in the event of an HPAI detection on that farm?**

No, egg processing areas can be heated to eliminate virus from surfaces of unused packaging. A heat treatment protocol is available on the public HPAI FADPrP website.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/hpai/fadprep-hpai>

- 4.) What advice do you have regarding lawncare between barns during this heightened time of biosecurity? With concerns about airborne transmission and the risk of attracting birds to your property by uncovering worms and pests, what best practices are recommended?**

Mowing and trimming vegetation and debris clearance around barns should continue, as it reduces harborage for longer-term wildlife residents.

- 5.) Will bulk feed ingredients have to be destroyed on an HPAI impacted farm? We understand finished feed on site will be destroyed, but what about bulk feed ingredients that are stored there if a feed mill is on site. Some farm locations could have tens of thousands bushels of corn and soy onsite.**

Finished feed on affected farms is usually destroyed with compensation, most often by incorporating it into mortality compost piles. Flock plans can include a provision to fallow bulk ingredients for 150 days and then release the material for use in feeding.

- 6.) Similarly, what about feed ingredients and stored corn in steel bins on a farm with an HPAI detection? Will corn stored in steel storage bins need disposed, sold?**
- a. What are limitations to bringing into the system corn purchased on a legal and binding contract?**
 - b. Will we be able to live up to those contracts or will they need pushed into the all-clear status timeframe of the farm?**
 - c. Is there any form of indemnification and where would we find that documentation?**

Finished feed on affected farms is usually destroyed with compensation, most often by incorporating it into mortality compost piles. Flock plans can include a provision to fallow bulk ingredients for 150 days and then release the material for use in feeding.

Feed ingredients brought into a control area will be subject to movement controls as described in the HPAI Response Plan Section 5.10.2.

(<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/hpai/fadprep-hpai>) Feed ingredients on an infected premises will be subject to disease control activities described in a flock plan, and may be destroyed with compensation or treated to eliminate virus.

Compensation for materials destroyed due to HPAI is paid to the owner of the materials, based on receipts for the purchase of the materials, not replacement value. Compensation is not provided for business losses associated with HPAI response, including expenses associated with business downtime and private contractual arrangements.

- 7.) Is there a general guidance document for specific testing requirements when HPAI is suspected in a flock?**

Avian Sample Collection for Influenza A and Newcastle Disease

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/lab_info_services/downloads/WIAV0020.pdf

- 8.) Are there specific PPE requirements for workers during the depopulation process? Are N95 masks and/or fit testing required?**

NIOSH provides guidance for poultry workers on avian influenza affected premises:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2008-128/pdfs/2008-128.pdf?id=10.26616/NIOSH PUB2008128>

Recommended PPE includes: outer garments (apron or coveralls), gloves, boots or boot covers, eye protection, and a particulate filter mask rated N95 or better. Respirator training and fit testing should be provided to workers who need to wear a respirator, according to NIOSH.

- 9.) What is the current APHIS policy regarding virus elimination activities for egg belts? Is it possible to perform virus elimination on egg belts or must they be destroyed?**

Egg belts made completely of synthetic materials can be cleaned and disinfected. Egg belts with organic composition (e.g. jute, hemp/synthetic blend) are not amenable to C&D and must be destroyed.

10.) **What is the current status on indemnification for LPAI?**

APHIS continues to consider LPAI situations for indemnity based on the level of concern for conversion to HPAI.

#END#

Poultry Industry Questions & Responses
USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services
March 14, 2022

Key Resources:

- [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan Red Book](#)
- [Foreign Animal Disease Prep Site](#)
- [Quick Start Guide for Getting a UEI](#)

Questions from Industry:

- **Who should participate in an Incident Command Structure?**
 - During an HPAI outbreak response, many individuals participate in the Incident Command. Industry has an opportunity to have an industry representative work with the incident management team (IMT). This representative can serve as communication liaison to carry messages from the IMT in a concerted effort back to their industry stakeholders.
 - Please reference the Red Book: 3.3 APHIS Incident Management Structure (page 3-6 and 3-7 or pages 44-45 of 224)
The APHIS Administrator is the Federal executive responsible for implementing APHIS policy during an HPAI outbreak; the Administrator is supported by the APHIS Management Team (AMT). Depending on the size of the outbreak, the APHIS Administrator and AMT may establish an APHIS-level MAC Group to coordinate resources; many of the MAC functions may be delegated to the VS Deputy Administrator, who is the Chief Veterinary Officer of the United States. The VS Deputy Administrator is supported by the VS Executive Team (VSET) to coordinate policy.
 - An APHIS National Incident Coordination Group (ICG), led by an Incident Coordinator and a deputy National Incident Coordinator, is immediately established to oversee the functions and response activities associated with the incident. This ICG is flexible and scalable to the size and scope of the incident, and works closely with IC personnel in the field, in a unified IMT (pictured in Figure 3-2) *Details of USDA APHIS Multiagency Coordination, Incident Coordination Group, and a Unified Incident Management Team for an HPAI Incident* (on page 3-8 or page 46 of 224).
 - Please reference the Red Book: 3.3.3 Organization at the Field Level (page 3-9 and 3-10 or pages 48-49 of 224).
At the beginning of an incident, the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) or designee, and the VS Assistant Director [aka Area Veterinarian in Charge] (AD), or designee, initially serve as Co[1] Incident Commanders in a unified IC structure. The AD and SAHO (or their designees) may be relieved by a VS NIMT or VS District-led IMT as requested. To-date, VS has five standing NIMTs. Either the SAHO/AD or NIMT establish an Incident Command Post (ICP), which serves as the base of deployment for field personnel. There may be multiple ICPs,

depending on the incident. These remain unified State-Federal IC organizational structures.

If there is more than one incident, more than one IC is likely to be established. An Area Command (AC) may also be established. In this case, individual Incident Commanders responsible for potentially multiple unified IMTs would report to the AC. AC organizational structures may not be established or appropriate in all incidents; in many cases, the ICG will perform the same functions as an AC. For more information on single incident and multiple incident coordination along with a full NIMT configuration, please see APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Framework: Roles and Coordination (FAD PReP Manual 1-0).

- **Review of zones (control/surveillance) and sampling requirements in each-**
 - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan Red Book - https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/hpai_response_plan.pdf
 - 4.3.2 - Zones and Areas in Relation to Stamping-Out
 - 5.5.1 Summary of Zones, Areas, and Premises Designations
 - 5.5.4 Considerations for Size of Control Area and Minimum Sizes of Other Zones
 - 5.3.3 Outbreak Surveillance Guidance— Passive Surveillance
 - 5.3.4 Outbreak Surveillance Guidance—Active Surveillance
 - 5.3.4.1 GENERAL ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE PARAMETERS
 - 5.3.5 Additional Guidance
 - Appendix D (pg 138) – Outbreak Surveillance Guidance for Poultry
- **Review of sampling (# of swabs, tubes) and birds eligible for sampling-**
 - Please see [WI-AV-0020](#) and the FAD manual provide guidance on sampling [FADD Manual digital.pdf \(usdatraining.com\)](#) Section 4.9 for Avian.
 - Per [WI-AV-0020](#) section 2.1 - Target sample collection from birds with clinical signs (daily morbidity and mortality).
- **Reminder of forms that need to be completed for indemnification-**
 - Appendix 1H must be signed by the State, the Poultry Owner, the AVIC and the NIC.
 - Appendix 2a signed by the poultry owner, and if a contract grower is involved 2b is signed by the grower.
- **Split samples to NAHLN and NVSL – best process?**
 - Field FAD Diagnosticians are required to send samples to NVSL Ames or Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) reference laboratories for all FAD investigations. Duplicate samples are encouraged to be submitted to a local NAHLN laboratory approved for the specific FAD tests associated with the case FAD differentials. If a NAHLN lab receives FADI samples which have not been submitted to the appropriate reference laboratory, NVSL Ames

or FADDL laboratories should be contacted to arrange for samples from the case to be sent from the NAHLN laboratory to the reference laboratory prior to initiating NAHLN testing. Should the amount of sample material submitted be insufficient for testing in both the NAHLN laboratory and the reference lab, NAHLN testing should not proceed, and the entire sample should be sent to the reference lab for testing.

- For mortality: Take two swabs together and collect OP or CL sample at same; swirl and express liquid in separate collection tubes.
 - For morbidity: Depends upon the size of bird: use mortality approach when possible; if birds are small collect two swabs, one followed by the other; swirl and express liquid in separate collection tubes.
- **Who needs to be on site prior to initiation of approved depopulation efforts? VMO, State Vet, Accredited Veterinarian**
 - A federal or state individual must be on site to oversee depopulation efforts. If the depopulation method utilized is VSD+, the individual should be a federal or state veterinarian for animal welfare considerations. If a federal contractor or contracted equipment is being utilized in the depopulation efforts, the individual overseeing this work must be a federal employee.
- **Transition away from DUNS review-**
 - The federal government will cease to use a DUNS number as a unique identifier for entities. A new identifier will be assigned in SAM.gov. This change goes into effect April 4, 2022. This transition allows the government to streamline the entity identification and validation process, making it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the federal government.
 - New SAM.gov registrants will still need to get a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet until April 4, 2022. Only after your DUNS number is assigned can you go to SAM.gov and register to do business with the government. A UEI will be automatically assigned once an entity registers in SAM.gov, in addition to the DUNS that is needed.
 - If an entity only conducts certain types of transactions, such as reporting as a sub-awardee, the entity may not need to complete a entity registration in SAM.gov. An entity may only need to obtain a Unique Entity ID.
 - With the transition to the UEI, GSA is making it easier to get a UEI by streamlining the request and ongoing management process. An entity will go to a single place, SAM.gov, to:
 - Request a UEI and register the entity to do business with the U.S. Government.
 - Make any updates to the legal business name and physical address associated with the UEI.
 - Find customer support at a single helpdesk for all UEI and entity registration issues.

- There are no exemptions for recipients of cooperative agreements, grants, contracts, and procurement awards. However, there are limited exemptions to the DUNS and SAM requirement for indemnity recipients. Generally, these exceptions are requested at the time of the indemnification and can be requested and approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Important Transition Dates:
 - SAM.gov will be down for maintenance to complete the transition beginning on **April 1 at 8:00 PM (ET) until no later than 9:00 AM (ET) April 4.**
 - **March 29 is the last day** to obtain a new DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet for registering an entity or getting a Unique Entity ID (SAM).
 - After April 4, 2022, entities will go to SAM.gov, not Dun & Bradstreet, to obtain their Unique Entity ID (SAM).
 - **April 1 is the last day** you can use a DUNS Number to get a Unique Entity ID (SAM) or register an entity in SAM.gov. Save all work in progress in SAM.gov **before 8:00 PM (ET) on April 1, 2022**, to ensure it will be available on April 4.
 - **No later than 9:00 AM on April 4**, SAM.gov will be back online. DUNS Numbers will no longer be displayed in IAE systems or accepted for entity registration. The Unique Entity ID (SAM) will be the identifier of record.

#END#