

## EGG PRODUCER TALKING POINTS – AVIAN INFLUENZA (FEBRUARY 2022)

*The below points can be used to answer basic questions about avian influenza that you may receive from local media, customers or others in your community. They are intended for your use only and not for distribution. The AEB/UEP joint crisis team is available to assist with media requests, and we encourage you to take advantage of its expertise and communication materials.*

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- Keeping my hens healthy and producing safe eggs are what matters most to me.
- As an egg farmer, I take disease prevention on my farms very seriously because I want to keep avian influenza and other bird diseases off my farm.
- I am concerned about the threat of Avian Influenza (AI) to egg farms like mine, especially with newly confirmed findings in commercial egg, chicken and turkey flocks and in wild birds in several states.
  - [UPDATE WITH DETAILS AS NEEDED TO REFLECT CURRENT SITUATION]
- It's important to know these things about the recent identifications of AI:
  - The identified strains have not affected any humans in the U.S. and are not a risk to public health.
  - Bird flu can't be transmitted through safely handled and properly cooked eggs or poultry.
  - Farmers always have many processes in place to keep hens and workers safe and to ensure the safety of our eggs.
- Like everyone, I'm worried about the spread of this disease and so I, along with other egg farmers, are carefully monitoring what's happening and taking all necessary steps to further protect our flocks.
- I'm pleased that the federal government and our state experts in animal health are working closely together to find solutions that prevent the spread of this disease to additional flocks.
- Biosecurity is always a priority on our farm, and we have increased everything we do on the farm to prevent disease, including: *(Use all that apply)*
  - Restricting on-farm access to essential employees only;
  - Wearing protective gear at all times to keep our workers safe;
  - Using disinfecting procedures such as foot baths, for those workers who enter our farms and barns; and
  - Working closely with our animal care teams and veterinarians to monitor our flocks.
  - [USE OTHER SPECIFIC PERSONAL EXAMPLES AS APPROPRIATE]
- I'm committed to keeping my hens safe, healthy and free from disease at all times.
- Keeping a steady supply of safe, nutritious eggs available for our customers and for Americans is my responsibility – and our team is doing all we can to protect our flocks.
- Our farm will work collaboratively with USDA and other authorities to prevent or swiftly contain any presence of bird flu on egg farms.