



UEP Animal Health and Biosecurity Committee

On February 24, the UEP Animal Health and Biosecurity Committee met to discuss the current highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) findings in the U.S. and UEP's response. Since the finding of HPAI in layer flocks, our industry is on alert and recognizes additional preventative actions must be taken.

On behalf of the Committee, UEP is advising egg producers of several key discussion points that were raised during the meeting:

1. **Biosecurity remains of paramount importance.** We cannot be too careful right now. Any measures not already taken should be implemented swiftly and maintained until the presence of HPAI is no longer detected. Visit unitedegg.com/AI for biosecurity resources, producer guidance and communication tools.
2. Egg producers are urged to begin **identifying channels and potentially securing vendors for specific HPAI-related supplies** that may be needed in responding to a detection on your farm. This includes CO2, carbon, heaters and MAC carts, which may be in short supply and not as easy to obtain in the event of an HPAI situation.
3. Egg producers should **meet with state agriculture and animal health officials now. If your state has an active outbreak, please remember those officials may be dealing with additional outbreaks also.** Plans for HPAI response should be understood by both producers and regulators – and plans should be firm and aligned should HPAI be detected on your farm.
4. All egg producers should **have testing supplies on-hand to swiftly test flocks** for HPAI. Provided the state allows farms to conduct their own sampling, please discuss protocols with your state animal health officials. If allowed, producers should plan to not only do their own testing, but also to be prepared to secure duplicate samples to go to NVSL.
5. Ensure someone in your operation is familiar with [Secure Egg Supply permitting guidance](#) for the movement of hens, shell eggs and egg products.

UEP is collaborating with USDA throughout the process of HPAI detection to reporting and notification, and we are working to speed up the process wherever possible. **Your role in disease prevention on your farms is essential to limiting the spread of this disease. Ultimately, biosecurity is the best defense we have against HPAI.**

Please contact Oscar Garrison at UEP, ogarrison@unitedegg.com, with any questions.