



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Veterinary Division

R. Douglas Meckes, DVM
State Veterinarian

August 4, 2015

Dear Farmer,

In the event that a farm becomes infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), a grower will be asked to complete a “Flock Plan” as a part of the response. This document outlines the grower and bird owner’s plan for depopulation of the flock as well as disposal of the carcasses and subsequent cleaning and disinfection of the barns, to lead ultimately to repopulation and continuation of business as normal.

We are asking that each grower think about the possible ways to approach depopulation, disposal and cleaning and disinfection, and submit to the State Veterinarian those plans. A form is attached to assist you in this endeavor. The form is modeled upon the USDA Flock Plan. It is recommended that each grower work with their contract company to prepare the plan.

If your farm is within a control area during an outbreak, all movement on and off of the farm will require a permit based upon testing for avian influenza in each house on the farm. Frequency of testing is based upon the recommendations in the Secure Egg Supply Plan, the Secure Turkey Supply Plan and the Secure Broiler Supply Plan, depending upon the production type of your farm. It is recommended that sampling of birds in your barns be completed using the barrel surveillance method, in order to decrease traffic in and out of the barns. In this method, the grower places carcasses of dead birds in a lined garbage can (for each house if there are multiple houses) placed in a designated area accessible from the farm entry. Contract company personnel access the barrels, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, and obtain swabs from the dead birds. Swabs are delivered to the lab collection point and the birds are disposed of by the grower.

Though negative test results are required for permitted movement during an outbreak, proof of adequate biosecurity on each farm is also important to obtain a permit for movement. Before any possible outbreak occurs, it is important for a grower to have a farm-specific biosecurity plan. In the form attached to this letter you will see a biosecurity check list that is not specific to your farm, but is a starting point for designing your own farm plan. As a part of your flock plan, please complete this checklist concerning what biosecurity measures you have in place on a daily basis on your farm.

During an outbreak as an additional requirement for permitted movement, each farm will need to fill out an epidemiology questionnaire, outlining contacts they have with other farms (shared equipment or shared workers) as well as movements of visitors or various service personnel on and off of the farm. Though it is not required for submission to the State Veterinarian at this time, it will be useful to you to read through a sample questionnaire for your production type and think about contacts you may have with other farms or visits by people that may put your farm at danger for infection. You can access sample questionnaires at the following web addresses: www.secureeggssupply.com or www.secureturkeysupply.com. Your contract company can help access these if you do not have Internet access.

Thank you for your assistance in providing the requested information. Consideration of all possible response measures will help you, as well as our state support services, be better prepared for any outbreak that may occur with the return of migratory waterfowl to North Carolina this fall; those waterfowl movements are believed to pose the greatest threat for initial introduction of the HPAI virus. Working together, we can better protect our state from the devastation experienced by farmers in the Midwest, and assure a speedier return to a normal business model should our state be affected by HPAI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Douglas Meckes", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

R. Douglas Meckes, DVM
State Veterinarian