




TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JULIUS JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER

DIVISION OF CONSUMER & INDUSTRY SERVICES
ANIMAL HEALTH

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tennessee Fair and Poultry Show/Sale Managers

FROM: Charles Hatcher, DVM 
State Veterinarian

DATE: June 26, 2015

RE: Fair and Poultry Show Biosecurity and Protective Measures

As we enter the summer months it is a good time to review the biosecurity practices in place to protect both the people and animals that attend Tennessee fairs and exhibitions. Biosecurity is a set of preventive measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases. Given the current national outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in commercial, backyard and wild birds, good biosecurity both on and off the farm is increasingly important. Please review the attached document detailing the measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of HPAI transmission.

Effective August 1, 2015, all live poultry and hatching eggs entering Tennessee shall originate from a flock participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and be accompanied by a VS 9-3 Form denoting the classification of Pullorum-Typhoid (PT) Clean and Avian Influenza (AI) Clean or Monitored Flock; **or**, be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and proof of negative testing for PT conducted within ninety (90) days prior to entering the state and AI within 21 days prior to entering the state. For AI, if the flock of origin contains up to thirty (30) birds, each bird must be individually tested; for flocks over thirty (30) birds, a sampling of at least (30) birds from the flock of origin needs to be tested. It is the fair manager's responsibility to ensure that every bird has the appropriate documentation when arriving on the fair grounds. As an additional measure, animal health staff will be conducting random AI surveillance testing at many of the shows and will be monitoring for compliance with the above order.

There are currently no confirmed cases of HPAI in the southern states. The migration of waterfowl puts us at high risk for exposure in the fall. Please be aware that should a diagnosis of HPAI be made in a non-wild bird in Tennessee or any of the adjoining states, the assembly of poultry at fairs, exhibitions and other locations may be banned.

Beyond poultry, adequate disease prevention practices need to be in place for all fairs and exhibitions involving animals. Please review, implement and distribute swine health and biosecurity recommendations for exhibit organizers and exhibitors provided by the National Pork

Board found at the following link:

<http://m.pork.org/News/4545/SwineShowBiosecurityRecommendations.aspx>

Also, please be aware of the health risks associated with the potential exposure of fair attendees to E. coli 0157 from animals exhibited on the fairgrounds. In order to best protect visitors from disease, the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials and the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians recommend the following:

- Provide easy access to hand-washing stations.
- Post informational signage that includes the following messages:
 - No eating or drinking in the animal areas.
 - Wash hands frequently.
 - No pacifiers, sipping cups or strollers in the animal exhibition areas.
- Discourage sleeping in the animal exhibition areas.
- People with influenza-like illness should leave the exhibition immediately and seek medical care. They should advise their health care provider about their fair attendance.
- People at high risk for developing severe complications from influenza should not be exposed to livestock.

Using these practices, we can better protect the animals and people in attendance from disease, and we can continue to have a healthy fair and exhibition season. Should you have any questions or concerns, contact the State Veterinarian's Office at 615-837-5120 or animal.health@tn.gov.