

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Office of the Administrator
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

TO: USDA Employees

Due to the ongoing outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), and our strong field office presence in rural areas across the country, it is important to understand how we can all help prevent spread of this disease. USDA employees and partners should take precautions regarding any interactions with all aspects of the poultry industry, especially on farms. Some of the things you can do to protect the health of the poultry industry are:

1. Do not go to a poultry farm unless it is absolutely necessary. If a farm visit is required, only one farm should be visited per day. After the visit, wash the vehicle both outside and inside. Clothes should be washed and shoes or boots cleaned and disinfected.
2. Do not go from plant to plant, or feed mill to feed mill, during any one day. Take the same precautions after visiting a plant or feed mill as noted above for visits to farms.
3. Wear plastic slip-on boots in order to help prevent the spread of HPAI.
4. Wear coveralls and foot gear and follow appropriate disposal protocols in order to prevent the spread of HPAI. If the owner cannot provide coveralls, be sure the clothing you wear is freshly washed.
5. When conducting a review or otherwise working at a complex, do not visit another complex in the area.
6. Never walk on to a farm or into a complex without the owner present.
7. If possible, call ahead to set up an appointment so that you can be escorted on and off the premises.
8. Always follow the owner or company's biosecurity guidance and requirements.

It is our responsibility to be as cautious as possible during these outbreaks. We must show that we understand the need for being responsible for our actions regarding our interactions with the poultry industry. Although USDA may have the authority and the need to visit any complex, plant, feed mill, or farm, we also have a responsibility to ensure that we are helping to prevent spread of this disease.

Thank you very much for all you do for American Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Dr. John R. Clifford
Chief Veterinary Officer
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service