



October 27, 2015

Mississippi Bulletin No. 130-16-01

**SUBJECT:** Biosecurity

**PURPOSE:** To provide procedures, checklist, and training requirements for biosecurity around poultry operations.

**EXPIRATION DATE:** September 30, 2016

**ACTION REQUIRED FOR BIOSECURITY:** Due to the potential outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) occurring across the nation, Mississippi NRCS personnel will be prepared should we experience an outbreak in the future. Employees are to review the previous biosecurity instructions issued by the USDA on April 23, 2015, and located on our website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ms/technical/>.

In addition, the requirements below are to be followed by all NRCS, partner, and conservation district employees working on or around poultry operations until further notice.

- Employees will not go to a poultry farm unless it is absolutely necessary. Conduct all work with the producer offsite if possible.
- If a site visit to a poultry farm is required:
  - Employees will contact the producer to set up an appointment and receive verbal confirmation that the employee may access the site and will need to be escorted on and off of the premises.
  - Employees will ask the producer about any biosecurity measures that are required before going on or around the site. All employees will follow site specific biosecurity measures or the procedures set forth on the attached checklist, whichever is more stringent.
  - Employees will not access any portion of the farm without the owner present.
  - Employees will not enter any poultry house, composters, litter barns, or any other parts of the farm that may have live animals, carcasses, or litter present.
  - Employees will verify that all required biosecurity supplies are in the vehicle prior to leaving the office (see attached checklist).
  - Employees will utilize the attached procedures checklist before, during, and after entering the site.
- Vehicle Use – To reduce potential for transfer of contaminated soil or other contaminated material, the following requirement will apply until further notice:
  - Only NRCS vehicles will be allowed near any operation. All employees should make arrangements to use only those vehicles allowed.
  - All vehicles will be parked in a neutral area, away from the poultry operation. Vehicles should be parked away from animal areas, out of any runoff coming from animal areas, and upwind of exhaust fans.
  - If there are no neutral areas around the operation then the vehicle should be parked in a safe location along a public road or other public areas and the employee must make arrangements with the producer to have the producer provide transportation and access.



- Any vehicle that drives down the same driveway as other equipment that come into contact with the birds, feed, or litter will be disinfected before arrival and prior to leaving the site.
- Any vehicle that is used on land where litter has been recently applied (less than 7 days) will be treated as if visiting a poultry facility. This vehicle will not be allowed to access any other farm in that same day and the same biosecurity treatment will apply.

In addition to the above requirements, all employees working in or providing assistance to poultry producing counties will be required to watch the webinar titled “Biosecurity Basics for NRCS Farm Visits” prior to visiting any poultry farm and no later than November 3, 2015. The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) certificate is required to certify completion. This webinar is approximately 1-hour and can be accessed at:

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/biosecurity-basics-for-nrcs-farm-visits/?searchterm=biosecurity>

Employees and area technical specialists will provide email certification to their supervisors when they have completed the training. Area Conservationist will provide a detailed listing by offices of NRCS, partner, and conservation district employees completing the training no later than November 3, 2015. All employees should also familiarize themselves with the policy found in General Manual Title 130, Part 403, Subpart H – Biosecurity Preparedness and Response.

All Area Conservationist should use the attached Mississippi Biosecurity Supply Checklist and take an inventory of their existing supplies. Any supply needs should be submitted to Walter Jackson at [walter.jackson@ms.usda.gov](mailto:walter.jackson@ms.usda.gov) by November 3, 2015. Sizes should be submitted for supplies such as disposable boot covers, nitrile gloves, and Tyvek coveralls. All field office and area/state specialist vehicles working in poultry producing counties will be required to be stocked with all required biosecurity supplies.

In the event an employee is contacted by a producer, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC), Animal and Plant Health Inspection (APHIS), Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), or any other agency regarding assistance after an outbreak, refer them to Scott Coleman, State Agricultural Engineer at (662) 773-2207 or [scott.coleman@ms.usda.gov](mailto:scott.coleman@ms.usda.gov).

Please contact Walter Jackson at (601) 965-5205, ext. 164 for any questions on required biosecurity measures issues or questions.

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Attachments: Mississippi Biosecurity Supply Checklist  
Mississippi Biosecurity Procedures Checklist  
HPAI Guidance to all Employees (April 23, 2015)

Cc: Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts  
Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Districts

AO



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