



Department of Agriculture

Exhibition Birds Showing Signs of Illness at the Fair

Bird flu (avian influenza) is a disease caused by influenza type A virus that can infect poultry. Most strains are low pathogenic. Highly pathogenic strains (HPAI) are highly contagious in birds and often cause death in poultry. Poultry owners and barn managers need to be on alert and take action if birds start showing signs of illness at the fair as this could be HPAI or another poultry disease.

Handling Sick Birds at the Fair

1. Immediately separate the bird from other poultry and quarantine.
 - o Take the bird to a separate and empty building that is not accessible to the public.
2. Contact the poultry barn coordinator or fair board member and the fair veterinarian and notify them immediately.
3. Do not house/coop any other birds in the same vicinity of the sick bird.
4. Call the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) immediately at (614) 728-6220 or after-hours line at (888) 456-3405. A staff member will coordinate with the owner of the birds and fair veterinarian to obtain samples for diagnostic testing at ODA's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.
5. Wash hands and use hand sanitizer. Do not handle other birds until results have been issued.
6. If a bird dies while at the fair- place in a black trash bag. Place the trash bag with the dead bird in another black trash bag. Disinfect the outside of double bagged bird with an aerosol spray disinfectant (Lysol or similar). Keep the package cool (refrigerated) so that samples may be collected for testing.
7. When the exhibitor talks to the fair veterinarian or ODA representative, they should be prepared to answer questions about the bird's health history as well health status of other birds at the exhibitor's residence.
8. If you have questions regarding sampling procedures, talk to ODA.



Clinical Signs of Avian Influenza

Clinical signs include: respiratory distress, sudden death, lethargy, difficulty breathing, discoloration of wattles and combs, decreased feed and water consumption.



FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Animal Health

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