



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Backyard Flock Plan**  
*H5/H7 AI Euthanasia/Depopulation,  
Disposal, & Virus Elimination Procedures  
for Backyard Infected Premises in (State)*  
June 3, 2016

Note: This is a general flock plan template intended to serve as a guide. It must be amended as necessary to be specific to the premises listed below.

| Premises Information Needed  |  |
|--|--|
| ID #   |  |
| State abbreviation, county, and site #                                     |  |
| <i>Premises owner</i>  |  |
| Name of premises   |  |
| Address of premises  |  |
| <i>Contact person (for Premises)</i>                                       |  |
| Contact's phone number   |  |
| Contact's e-mail address   |  |
| <i>Bird owner</i>  |  |
| Name of representative if applicable                                       |  |
| Address of bird owner  |  |
| Birds present on date of appraisal (include: census, type, purpose, & age) |  |

OWNER/OPERATOR:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

VS INCIDENT COMMANDER OR STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ STATE INCIDENT COMMANDER OR \_\_\_\_\_ STATE VETERINARIAN:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a written flock management agreement developed between USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (*Insert State initials*) (hereafter, "the State" or "State") with input from \_\_\_\_\_ (*Insert bird owner and/or premises owner*). This flock will be handled in accordance with the State Initial State Response and Containment Plan (ISRCP), HPAI Response Plan Red Book for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (hereafter, *HPAI Response Plan Red Book*), and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

**BRIEF HISTORY**

| Information Needed  |  |
|---|--|
| Clinical signs<br>( <i>brief</i> description)   |  |
| Daily mortality rate<br>(# of dead birds/bird population on date of initial sampling) |  |
| Date first clinical signs were noted  |  |
| Date initial samples were collected   |  |
| Date presumptive positive test results were reported                                  |  |
| Date confirmatory positive test results were reported                                 |  |
| Virus characterization<br>(subtype/characterization from NVSL report)                 |  |
| Date written premises quarantine was issued   |  |

THE MAIN TENETS OF THIS PLAN INCLUDE:

- Restricting movement and enhancing biosecurity,
- Investigating sources of infection,
- Euthanasia/depopulation of poultry on the premises,
- Disposal of birds, eggs, litter, and any other contaminated materials, and
- Eliminating avian influenza virus from the premises.

**REQUESTS FOR INDEMNITY FOR DISPOSAL, CLEANING, AND DISINFECTION ACTIVITIES**

The bird owner(s) will be eligible for indemnification. Prior to euthanasia/depopulation, the Appraisal and Indemnity Request form must be completed and signed. The value of the birds will be obtained from (a) a VS-prepared calculator based on the fair market value of the birds, and/or (b) receipts.

Before cleaning and disinfection, the premises will be inspected by the bird or premises owner and VS to determine whether there are contaminated items for which the cost of cleaning and disinfection would exceed the value of the materials, or for which cleaning and disinfection would be impractical for another reason. The fair market value (used price) of these items will be determined by a State or VS appraiser with input from the owner. Prior written VS approval is required for destruction of items for which reimbursement will be claimed.

Any disposal of birds and cleaning and disinfection of premises, conveyances, and materials for which indemnity is requested must be performed under a separate agreement between the claimant and VS. The agreement, consisting of a detailed financial plan must be signed by all

parties before the start of any of the activities for which indemnity is claimed. Any work performed before the agreement is signed may not be eligible for reimbursement.

### PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Euthanasia/depopulation* will be,
  - the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert responsible party*), and
  - carried out by \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert person performing euthanasia/depopulation*), with oversight by VS and the State.
- *Disposal* of dead birds, litter (bedding), and other contaminated materials will be,
  - the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert responsible party*), and
  - carried out by \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert who will be doing the disposal*), with oversight by VS and the State.
- Include the following two responsibilities if *cleaning and disinfection* is chosen:
  - *Cleaning* of contaminated equipment, structures, vehicles, and other contaminated areas and materials will be
    - the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert responsible party*), and
    - carried out by \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert who will be cleaning*), with oversight by VS and the State.
  - *Disinfection* of equipment, vehicles, and other contaminated materials will be,
    - the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert responsible party*), and
    - carried out by \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert who will be disinfecting*), with oversight and documentation by VS and the State.

### MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS AND ENHANCED BIOSECURITY

The verbal quarantine was issued by \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert name of animal health official*) on \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert date*). The written quarantine document was issued on \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert date*) and receipt was acknowledged by signature of \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert bird or premises owner, or representative*). The quarantine states that no domesticated birds or other animals, bird products such as hatching eggs, or contaminated materials (manure, mortalities, eggs, shells, feed, etc.) are to enter or leave the premises without a permit issued by the State and appropriate biosecurity. Quarantine instructions include increasing biosecurity measures to minimize traffic and implementing protocols to clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment.

THE QUARANTINE WILL NOT BE RELEASED BEFORE:

- completion of an epidemiologic investigation,
- avian influenza virus has been eliminated from the premises according to measures outlined in the ISRCP and *HPAI Response Plan Red Book*, and
- if all domesticated birds on the premises were not euthanized/depopulated, completion of surveillance testing of the remaining birds with no detection of avian influenza.

### EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION

A State or Federal veterinarian will conduct an investigation to identify potential pathways for avian influenza virus to enter or leave the premises. This investigation should be initiated as soon as possible, preferably no later than one (1) week following detection of avian influenza.

An investigation form is provided and serves as a guide for identifying potential pathways of avian influenza virus introduction onto the premises and potential movement of avian influenza virus off the premises. All sections of the form should be completed through direct conversation with the

individual(s) most familiar with the management of the poultry on the premises for the period of two weeks prior to the detection of avian influenza until the date the quarantine was issued. In addition to interviewing the flock caretaker(s), the veterinarian conducting the investigation may directly observe biosecurity or management practices.

Copies of completed investigations will be provided to the signatories of this plan.

## EUTHANASIA/DEPOPULATION

\_\_\_\_\_ (Insert all, or specify which subset of) domesticated birds on the premises will be euthanized/depopulated as quickly and humanely as possible. Until euthanasia/depopulation procedures are initiated, the responsible party will ensure that birds are provided with food, water, and appropriate environmental conditions (e.g. ventilation and temperature control).

Workers will be fit tested and medically approved to wear a respirator before entering the premises and will don personal protective equipment (PPE) according to VS HPAI standard operating procedures. Before euthanasia/depopulation or disposal activities begin, the responsible party will designate a clean area and a dirty area and maintain biosecurity measures in these areas according to VS HPAI standard operating procedures, with oversight by State or VS personnel.

Birds \_\_\_\_\_ (insert will be/were) euthanized/depopulated using \_\_\_\_\_ (insert method – foam, CO<sub>2</sub>, etc.). Euthanasia/depopulated is expected to begin on \_\_\_\_\_ (insert date) **or** Euthanasia was completed on \_\_\_\_\_ (insert date). Euthanasia/depopulated \_\_\_\_\_ (insert will be/was/was not) conducted under the direct supervision of State or VS personnel.

## DISPOSAL

**Amend the text below as necessary for this premises, to clearly describe the disposal methods and procedures used.**

1. **Disposal of all dead poultry and eggs.** These items will be \_\_\_\_\_ (insert disposal method(s)).
2. **Disposal of litter, manure, debris, and feed.** These items will be \_\_\_\_\_ (insert disposal method(s)).
3. **Destruction and disposal of contaminated materials that can't be cleaned and disinfected.**

## ELIMINATING THE VIRUS FROM THE PREMISES

**Circle and amend either the option of cleaning and disinfection, or the option of fallowing.**

**A. Cleaning and disinfection.** All contaminated structures, equipment, vehicles, and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected following the depopulation/euthanasia of poultry on the premises. The party responsible for cleaning and disinfection, in consultation with State or VS personnel, will prepare a site-specific cleaning and disinfection plan in accordance with VS HPAI standard operating procedures. State or VS personnel must approve the plan before implementation.

The elements of the site specific cleaning and disinfection plan include the following; disinfection procedures will be overseen and documented by State and/or VS personnel:

1. Immediately after depopulation/euthanasia of the birds, applying insecticides and rodenticides and removing any debris from around the exterior of the poultry houses.

2. Cleaning and disinfecting all vehicles and equipment used in holding, handling, or transporting, or that have been in contact with, affected poultry, poultry products, or contaminated materials, prior to leaving the premises.
3. Dry cleaning and/or wet cleaning contaminated structures and equipment according to VS HPAI standard operating procedures. Structures and equipment will be inspected by State or VS personnel to ensure that cleaning has sufficiently removed contaminated materials or substances and that houses and equipment are completely dry before a disinfection step is started.
4. Eliminating the virus structures and equipment by: **(choose one)**
  - a. Drying and heating according to VS HPAI standard operating procedures, or
  - b. Wet disinfection with an EPA-registered antimicrobial pesticide effective against avian influenza, or
  - c. Fumigation with an EPA registered product for porous and non-porous surfaces.

**(or)**

**B. Fallow.** No domesticated birds will be reintroduced to the premises for at least 150 days after depopulation/euthanasia of all poultry on the premises. During the fallow period, the premises owner will maintain these conditions:

1. The contaminated portion of the premises is fenced to prevent unauthorized access.
2. Measures to prevent attracting wild waterfowl are in place (e.g. access to food and bathing water sources is prevented).
3. Clutter and trash may be left on site during the fallow period, lawfully burned or buried on site, or disposed of in a biosecure manner offsite (e.g. double bagged and taken directly to a sanitary landfill).

### **ENSURING THE PREMISES IS FREE OF AVIAN INFLUENZA**

In the event there are any captive wild birds or any other species protected by regulation on the premises, these remaining birds that were in contact with birds, eggs, or materials from an infected flock, must at a minimum, be sampled via rt-PCR diagnostic testing every other day for 14 days. \_\_\_\_\_ (If applicable, specify other surveillance testing scheme determined by the State and VS to be appropriate. See official VS Guidance for details and examples.) The samples will be submitted to \_\_\_\_\_ (insert NAHLN lab) for testing for evidence of avian influenza.

### **REPOPULATION**

**(States may have additional requirements added here, based on their ISRCP.)**

State and VS personnel must concur in writing prior to any restocking activities. If restocking occurs without prior written approval of State and VS officials, this repopulation is at the producer's risk; VS will not indemnify previously affected premises that are restocked without prior written approval and subsequently become re-infected.

Any sudden and significant mortality event or sudden drop in egg production within 180 days of quarantine release should be investigated and tested for avian influenza by State and/or VS personnel.