

How Poultry Disease Spreads in the Live-Bird Marketing System

Poultry Farm

Poultry Equipment Can Spread Disease

- Filler flats
- Hauling crates/coops
- Cages
- Water containers
- Tools



Birds Can Spread Disease

- Bird-to-bird
- Carcasses
- Manure
- Litter and debris
- Feathers
- Exposure to wild birds

Auction



Vehicles Can Spread Disease

- Tractors
- Trucks and cars
- Front-end loaders

People Can Spread Disease

- Improper or inadequate biosecurity
- Clothing, boots, and shoes
- Handling birds



The Live-Bird Marketing System Can Spread Disease

- Unsanitary conditions
- Close contact among birds
- Birds of unknown origin
- Mixing groups of birds
- Rodents

Live-Bird Market



Wholesaler/Distributor

Protecting America's Live-Bird Markets

The Live-Bird Marketing System Cooperative Program addresses the persistence of low-pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) associated with the live-bird marketing system in the United States. The Veterinary Services (VS) branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) began the program with States and industry to prevent and control LPAI in the markets and among production premises and poultry distributors that supply the markets.

The program forges an important relationship between commercial and noncommercial industries and requires them to work together to protect America's flocks.

While birds with LPAI often show few or no clinical signs, the disease is contagious, and its H5 and H7 subtypes have the potential to mutate into highly pathogenic avian influenza. That deadly disease causes trading partners to implement immediate trade restrictions.



LOOK
for Signs.



REPORT
Sick Birds.



PRACTICE
Biosecurity.

Highlights of the Live-Bird Marketing System Cooperative Program

- Diagnoses, controls, and prevents LPAI subtypes H5 and H7.
- Implements licensing, registration, and testing requirements for markets, poultry distributors, and production premises.
- Improves biosecurity, sanitation, and disease control at poultry operations.
- Minimizes the effects of LPAI on the U.S. commercial poultry industry.
- Encourages participation by States across the country.



www.aphis.usda.gov/vs

Photos: The images of caged poultry on the front cover and, on the inside, of a bird being weighed were furnished by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The picture of chickens on the front cover was taken by USDA Agricultural Research Service photographer Stephen Ausmus. All other images were taken by APHIS photographer R. Anson Eaglin.

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