

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Q & A

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EXTENSION

Wednesday, March 23, we had a **HPAI Q & A** Zoom session. Jon Moyle and Jenny Rhodes started us off by welcoming everyone (204 overall attendees) to discuss **AI issues and manure transport**.

View the recording: <https://umd.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=2514bb88-2292-4d98-a993-ae6101268c86>

In attendance were other UME personnel, Nat Tablante, DMV, Maegan Perdue, guests from MDA, DDA, and USDA.

Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary of the MD Dept. of Agriculture would join in a few minutes, so Steve Connelly, Deputy Secretary of MD Dept. of Ag, started us off with an update.

- A lot has been going on; multiple sites in both Delaware and Maryland that are positive for high pathogen AI, we're not like 17 or 18 other states in the country who are suffering from many positive cases
- The first high-pathogen was detected on Feb. 22 in DE. About a week later, there were positive cases in Cecil Co. MD, all in commercial flocks.
- Since then, we've had commercial flocks in Kent Co. DE and Queen Anne's Co. MD
- We have a written agreement between MDA, DDA, USDA, and the Poultry Industry to set up a unified command. Unfortunately for DE, they were the first to have the HPAI, and that's why the command center is there in Dover
- **Jointly put out orders on limits of movement of litter**
- About 2 weeks ago, after meeting with the epidemiologist from USDA, and they gave us confidence that the science says if litter is kept in the same place for 2 weeks, that the virus would be eliminated. We made changes to the litter orders for both DE and MD. ([Executive Order Restricting Movement of Poultry Litter Generated in Certain Areas of the State AMENDED 3/18/2022](#))
- Working with Howard Callahan, MD Nutrient Management Specialist, we were able to relax the litter movement requirements in the order for folks outside of the zone that's 10 kilometers around the Index farm or the control zone
- **We're doing a state permit to allow you to be able to move the litter**

The MD State Secretary of Ag was able to join; Jenny asked if Joe Bartenfelder wanted to say a few words:

- From the beginning, one of the concerns was to make sure we kept a heightened biosecurity level at all the farms on Delmarva to make sure we tried to contain HPAI to locations where it was, so it didn't get away from us and spread anymore

- Everybody knows of the rising cost of fertilizer and people are dependent on being able to use the poultry litter to use as fertilizer and spread out on the field. So, as Steve said, the epidemiologist found once chickens go out, and litter gets a chance to 'cook' for 14 days, the threat of HPAI would be gone.

(HAS TO STAY IN PRODUCTION AREA FOR 14 DAYS. IF LOCATED IN AFFECTED AREA, YOU NEED TO GET A PERMIT IN ADDITION TO THE 14 DAY RULE.)

We can move that litter out, and it can be used in the fields and, under a permit-purposes only, we can also move it into control zones and it can be spread there

- It's been a lot of work, a lot of time being put in by USDA, DDA, and MDA at the control command sites and at the farms. It's a whole different undertaking when talking about laying houses versus broiler houses as far as the depopulations and removal; it was a whole different experience from what people anticipated from any tabletop exercises

Georgie Cartanza, Poultry Extension Agent for the University of Delaware, and Bob Coleman, Nutrient Management Agent for Delaware, Holly Porter and James Fisher of DCA were introduced

Jenny Rhodes opened the discussion up for questions.

- Q: Where do we stand in Kent Co., DE, looking for guidance for those inside the hot zone
- Howard Callahan of MDA Nutrient Management Program, is handling MD people who need to apply for a permit, says in MD, which should relate to what is being done in DE, people need to apply for a permit if they are in the hot zone and want to remove litter from their production area.
- The latest executive order basically requires **every** poultry operation in the entire state of MD or DE to follow the 14 day rule, which says litter cannot leave your production area until it has at least been 14 days removed from live birds.
- **Only people in what we call the restricted area are people that are within 10 kilometers of an active site.**
- Farmers that are in the zone have been notified. We shared a copy of the executive order with them as well as what they need to do to obtain a permit if needed.
- Callahan has issued 8 permits for sites in MD that are in those zones who basically need to move litter and it's dependent on when their birds leave is when that permit would be effective.
- **In MD, if you haven't been directly notified, and probably in DE too, you are NOT in a restricted zone.** It is not the same map that was originally put out with the FIRST executive order; you just need to follow the 14-day rule – you do not need a permit if not in the restricted zone.
- Q: If your birds are out, when can you see birds again?

- Guidance from APHIS states for each incident, the time frame will be different because of composting, clean out, disinfecting of the operation. But, if all goes well, once the compost is capped, it could be under 30 days that we could release the hold orders on individual farms, says Steve Connelly. Cecil Co. could be another week before compost is capped.
- Bob Coleman, DDA, agreed with the above, said a 6.2 mile radius (10 kilometers), and even those in the general neighborhood can contact DDA at 302-698-4556 for Bob.
- Q: My chickens are going out, but getting chickens back in 10 days, what can I do on my farm?
- Howard Callahan says follow the 14-day rule before litter can leave the production area after live birds have left. You can take manure out of your house and put in your storage structure, because that's part of your production area. If you get new chickens in 10 days, you are still allowed to move that litter from the shed once the 14 day hold period has been met.

You just have to limit interaction between that 14-day old manure and any new litter.

If you need a permit, we're going to spell out everything you can and cannot do into the permit. Again, if you are not in a restricted zone, it's the 14 day honor system.

These Notes covered just the tip of the iceberg on this HPAI Q & A Zoom. Please watch the whole video, linked at the top, to get more answers and information.

UME's Poultry site is full of information. The latest news is on the top of the landing page. Go down to the bottom of that page for publications, videos, and events. We hope to get together again **April 6** to follow up and see if we have more updates. Here is our site link: <https://extension.umd.edu/poultry>

### **Helpful Contacts and Information:**

**Howard Callahan**, MDA Nutrient Management, contact 410-279-4003 or [howard.callahan@maryland.gov](mailto:howard.callahan@maryland.gov)

**Bob Coleman**, DE Dept. of Ag Nutrient Management 302-698-4556 direct to his desk

Liability Info: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/biosecurity-measures-limit-liability-spreading-avian-flu>

APHIS:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/SA\\_Program\\_Overview/SA\\_Contact/ws-state-info?st=MD:Maryland](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/SA_Program_Overview/SA_Contact/ws-state-info?st=MD:Maryland)

Maryland: [mda.maryland.gov/avianflu](http://mda.maryland.gov/avianflu)

DE Qualtrics: [https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1G5AMePZz7NVCwC](https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1G5AMePZz7NVCwC)

Footbath Fact Sheet <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8281.pdf>

Biosecurity Videos <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/animal-science/poultry/videos>

UME Biosecurity website <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/biosecurity-measures-limit-liability-spreading-avian-flu>

Please reach out and contact us if you have further questions.

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