

# HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) FROM IDENTIFICATION TO RECOVERY

HPAI is one of the most difficult and devastating situations and egg farmer can face. The process from early indication that an egg farm may have an HPAI outbreak to the stage where new hens may be safely housed is complex, has many steps, and may take months from beginning to end. This guide helps explain the full process.



- 1 Egg farmer reports unusual signs or the possible presence of the HPAI virus
- 2 Egg farmer works with a veterinarian to do flock testing
- 3 If it is the first suspected case in the state – the test must be confirmed by National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL)  
*With additional cases, actions may be taken to prevent further spread  
After the first case, subsequent diagnoses can be made in state labs*
- 4 Farm is placed under quarantine, and no product may leave the farm
- 5 An epidemiological study begins to identify all outside contacts with the farm, possible points of spread, and any associations to other farms
- 6 The positive farm works with USDA on a depopulation plan which should ideally be done within 24-48 hours because the disease spreads quickly and is deadly to hens
- 7 Government authorities will establish control areas around the affected farm, and nearby farms will be monitored for HPAI
- 8 Farms in the control area must obtain permits to move eggs outside the area
- 9 Lost hens are disposed of according to the plan agreed upon with USDA and state authorities
- 10 Cleaning and disinfection of the farm site begins to remove all traces of the virus
- 11 Virus elimination must be confirmed, and the site must remain empty until released by authorities