

**Avian Influenza Monitoring Program and Outbreak Response Guidelines of the Texas Poultry Industry – Approved September 12, 2005, amended July 28, 2006**

E-1 Standing Emergency Disease Management Committee

E-1-a. The membership of the standing emergency disease management committee shall consist of:

All members of the board of directors of the Texas Poultry Federation, includes representatives from:

- Texas Broiler Council
- Texas Egg Council
- Texas Turkey Federation
- Texas Poultry Improvement Association

The current USDA-AVIC for the state

The current Commissioner of the TAHC or person designated by Commissioner

The director of the TVMDL or person designated by the Director

The NPIP contact rep for the state

The Extension Program Leader for Poultry Science, Texas Cooperative Extension

The Department Head of the Poultry Science Department, Texas A&M University

The Executive Vice President of the Texas Poultry Federation

E-1-b. The standing emergency disease management committee shall meet in conjunction with regular TPF board meetings or as necessary with regard to disease situations. The committee will conduct routine exercises to evaluate and update this plan. The Executive Vice President of the TPF shall serve as the communications officer of the committee and will maintain a list of all names and contact information for all committee members. This information shall be distributed to all members of the committee at each regular meeting.

E-1-c. The reporting of confirmed cases of AI will be conducted in accordance with all state, national and international laws under the direction of the Commissioner of the TAHC. The TAHC Manual of Standard Operating Procedures for Texas LPAI Response is attached and shall be considered part of this plan. The communications officer of the emergency disease management committee shall work in cooperation with the TAHC Commissioner to assure that appropriate communication to industry stakeholders occurs.

E-1-d. The Executive Vice President of the Texas Poultry Federation shall make available to all interested parties information concerning Avian Influenza. Media-ready materials will be developed and made available upon request.

E-2 Purpose and Biosecurity Plan

E-2-a. The discovery of avian influenza in Mexico and other areas poses a serious threat to the Texas poultry industry and calls for the implementation of a stringent defense.

E-2-b. The essential elements to avoid the introduction of avian influenza Texas include:

- i. Avoid direct contact between all other avian species and poultry (waterfowl, etc.).
- ii. Allow no visitors on to poultry premises.
- iii. Assure that permit requirements are closely followed.
- iv. Train all personnel regarding biosecurity and monitoring practices.
- v. Monitor for avian influenza
- vi. Promptly react to any suspected outbreak.

E-2-c. TCE publication L-5182 (attached as Appendix A) will serve as the minimum biosecurity plan for Texas.

E-2-d. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a clear and objective set of guidelines for monitoring of poultry farms and flocks to prevent the introduction and spread of avian influenza. Much of this material is modeled after other plans developed by Delmarva Poultry Industries, Inc., and the Arkansas Animal Disease Emergency Response Plan additional information has been taken from several industry-wide meetings.

E-2-e. Any variation from these procedures requires the review and approval of the Emergency Disease Tack Force or must be conducted under the authority of the Texas Animal Health Commission or other appropriate state or federal agency.

### E-3 Importance Of Monitoring For Avian Influenza

E-3-a. Monitoring is only one of several important steps in a strong defensive program.

E-3-b. It is essential that the Texas poultry industry develop and implement plans to prevent and stop this threat as well as control or eradicate avian influenza. Failure to take appropriate actions can result in serious economic losses. The credibility of the Texas industry, nationally and internationally relies on directly addressing this situation.

E-3-c. The success of an effective defensive program will be dependant on efficient discovery and reporting of avian influenza wherever it appears. Perhaps the most critical period is during the time when the infection makes its “silent” entry and when it becomes recognized, confirmed and the plan is implemented.

E-3-d. This defensive management is built around a program which is practical and acceptable, yet will prevent the introduction of avian influenza. Unwittingly stumbling into a hazardous situation and tracking it from premise to premise represents one of the industries greatest threats. The effectiveness monitoring plan is closely related to the level of biosecurity practiced among poultry personnel. A

strong defense must be in place and maintained.

E-3-e. The following are the TVMDL poultry labs:

TVMDL Gonzales Poultry Laboratory  
1812 Water St.  
Gonzales, TX 78629  
Phone: 830-672-2834  
Contact: Dr. Jose Linares

TVMDL Center Poultry Laboratory  
635 Malone Dr.  
Center, TX 75935  
Phone: 936-598-4451  
Contact: Dr. Tom Blount

TVMDL – College Station  
1 Sippel Road  
College Station, TX 77843  
Phone: 979-845-3414  
Contact: Dr. William Wigle

E-3-f Laboratory Capacities

<u>Lab</u>	<u>Normal Capacity</u>	<u>Surge Capacity</u>
Gonzales	1500 samples/wk Turkey samples – AGID Chicken samples – ELISA	6500 samples/wk
Center	1500 samples/wk All samples – AGID ELISA capabilities if needed	6500 samples/wk
College Station	0 samples/wk	10,000 samples/wk – RTPCR 20,000 samples/wk - ELISA

#### E-4 Avian Influenza Monitoring Guidelines - No Known Cases In Texas

E-4-a For the purposes of monitoring, The following flock definitions will be utilized:

Commercial meat-type flock. All of the meat-type chickens or meat-type turkeys on one farm. However, at the discretion of the Official State Agency, any group of poultry which is segregated from another group in a manner sufficient to prevent the transmission of H5/H7 LPAI and has been so segregated for a period of at least 21 days may be considered as a separate flock.

Commercial table-egg layer flock. All table-egg layers of one classification in one barn or house.

Commercial table-egg layer premises. A farm containing contiguous flocks of commercial table-egg layers under common ownership.

E-4-b. Broiler and turkey grow out flocks - Monitor blood samples as flocks are processed. Test a minimum of 25% of all flocks, a minimum of 15 birds per flock representing a balance of all geographical areas.

E-4-c Commercial layer, Broiler and Turkey breeders, immature and mature flocks - Test all flocks as samples are routinely submitted for immunology evaluation by blood (at least every 60 days). Test no fewer than 20 birds per flock.

E-4-d Commercial egg flocks - Test at least 15 eggs every 30 days from a minimum of 50% of all houses. Samples should represent all locations within the house. Tested houses should represent a balance of all geographic locations.

E-4-e Commercial egg replacement pullet flocks - Test all flocks. Test a minimum of two weeks prior to movement. Test no fewer than fifteen birds per house.

E-4-f Primary Breeders – Test according to provisions of Sections E-4-c or E-4-d

E-4-g Submit samples to:

TVMDL laboratory nearest your location or laboratory approved by the Official State Agency (Currently the Texas Poultry Improvement Board).

E-5. Avian Influenza Monitoring Guidelines Following Confirmed H5 or H7 Seropositive Case In Texas

- E-5-a For the purposes of monitoring, a flock shall consist of all poultry on a single farm or facility. Samples should represent all locations within the house. Tested houses should represent a balance of all on-farm locations.
- E-5-b Broiler and turkey grow out flocks - All flocks within five miles of confirmed case must test negative within 7 days prior to movement. Test no fewer than 30 birds per flock.
- E-5-c Commercial layer, Broiler and Turkey breeders, immature and mature flocks - Test all flocks within five miles of confirmed case every 14 days. Test no fewer than 30 birds per flock.
- E-5-d Commercial egg flocks - Test a minimum of 30 eggs every 14 days from each flock within five miles of confirmed case. Samples should represent all locations within the flock.
- E-5-e Commercial egg replacement pullet flocks - All flocks within five miles of confirmed case must test negative within 7 days prior to movement. Test no fewer than 30 birds per flock.
- E-5-f Require testing of all other poultry, exhibition, small flocks, etc. within 10 miles of confirmed case. Test sufficient birds in a flock to assure 95% confidence that at least one positive bird will be detected assuming a 25% prevalence.

The number of birds to be sampled on each premise is presented in the following table.

Number of birds on the premise	Minimum number of birds to be sampled on each premise
10 or less	All birds
11 - 49	15
50 or greater	20

- E-5-g Submit samples to TVMDL laboratory or laboratory approved by the official state agency (currently the Texas Poultry Improvement Board).

## E-6 Plan Of Action - Avian Influenza Suspect Flock

E-6-a Grower/producer immediately telephones flock supervisor/manager of suspicion.

E-6-b Any farm with increased mortality will be visited by appropriate diagnosticians.

E-6-c If clinical disease is evident:

- i. Establish communication with Texas Animal Health Commission
- ii. Explain disease to all farm personnel.
- iii. Establish 24/7 guard
- iv. Establish cleaning and disinfection capability on farm.
- v. Begin epidemiology
- vi. Follow TAHC or other approved guidelines for euthanasia, depopulation and burial, develop schedule of depopulation.
- vii. Keep accurate records of bird numbers for appropriate indemnity appraisal.
- viii. Plan and implement cleaning and disinfection of facilities.
- ix. Post visible quarantine signs.
- x. Clean and disinfect all equipment and personnel entering and leaving farm.

E-6-d If clinical disease is not evident:

- i. Explain disease threat to all farm personnel.
- ii. Implement strict biosecurity on farm.
- iii. Follow procedures for farm visit of suspect flock (section E-5-h)

E-6-e Quarantine highly suspect farm, posting guard and sending samples for confirmation by virus isolation and pathogenicity.

E-6-f Begin initial epidemiology on suspect farm and visit with all affected parties about biosecurity and the need to restrict movement.

E-6-g Supervisor immediately gives this flock top priority. Supervisor should have the

following supplies:

Disposable masks, headgear, and gloves	Procedures manual		
Boots	Plastic bags	Disinfectant	Brush
Bucket	Coveralls	KEEP OUT sign	

E-6-h Procedure for farm visit of suspect flock.

- i.. Park vehicle well away from poultry house, avoid air and water flow from house.
- ii. Put on all clean wearing apparel, disinfect boots and gloves immediately on arrival. Recommended: coveralls, gloves, boots, hat and mask.
- iii. The poultry health official within the company should collect specimens for diagnosis using the following procedures:
  1. Select fresh dead or kill live symptomatic birds. Suspect birds should be handled in such a manner as to prevent contamination of person, clothing or vehicle with feathers, fecal matter or any other body discharges. To prevent tearing of the bags, cut off beaks and feet of dead birds prior to placement in the bag.
  2. Tie bag closed, disinfect bag and place it in a second plastic bag, disinfect second bag.
  3. Put boots, gloves, coveralls, mask and hat in container of disinfectant and transfer to plastic bag, disinfect bag, place in second plastic bag and disinfect second bag.
  4. Incinerate disposable items at farm if possible, if not handle as described above.
  5. Post KEEP OUT signs, avoid excessive contamination of vehicle.
  6. Submit samples to:  
TVMDL laboratory nearest your location or laboratory approved by the official state agency (currently the Texas Poultry Improvement Board).
  7. Launder all clothing immediately.
  8. Avoid all contact with poultry or poultry personnel until vehicle and individuals involved are completely decontaminated.

E-7-a Flock plans shall be developed for each infected and exposed flock as determined by surveillance and epidemiological investigation. A flock plan is defined in the proposed 9CFR part 56 as a written flock management agreement developed by APHIS and the Official State Agency with input from the flock owner and other affected parties. A flock plan sets out the steps to be taken to eradicate H5/H7 LPAI from a positive flock, or to prevent introduction of H5/H7 LPAI into another flock. A flock plan shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, poultry and poultry product movement and geographically appropriate infected and control/monitoring zones. Control measures in the flock plan should include detailed plans for safe handling of conveyances, containers, and other associated materials that could serve as fomites; disposal of flocks; cleaning and disinfection; downtime; and repopulation

E-7-b The success of any plan of action will depend on:

- i. Reaction time after outbreak is first suspected.
- ii. Readiness of personnel, phone numbers, procedures to follow and supplies to go into action.
- iii. Accurate information to establish quarantine.
- iv. Understanding traffic patterns and movement in the affected area.

E-7-c Each participant in this program should have immediate and up to date access to this information to avoid delays in implementation of the following recommended responses.

E-7-d All carcass disposal will be done in accordance with TNRCC Regulatory Guidance RG-326 (attached and considered a part of this plan) and relevant TAHC SOP's (page 17 of attached document).

E-7-e Negative flocks could be considered for controlled marketing in accordance with TAHC permitting procedures outlined in the attached SOP's (page 19) in addition,  
an official negative AI test within 7 days of movement is required. The following outlines the requirements for controlled marketing:

(1) At the discretion of the Cooperating State Agency and APHIS, poultry that has  
been infected with or exposed to H5/H7 LPAI may be allowed to move for controlled marketing in accordance with the initial State response and containment plan described in proposed 9CFR part 56.10 and in accordance with the following requirements:

- (i) Poultry infected with or exposed to H5/H7 LPAI must not be transported to a market for controlled marketing until 21 days after the acute phase of the infection has concluded, as determined by the Cooperating State Agency in accordance with the initial State response

and containment plan described in proposed 9CFR part 56.10; and  
(ii) Within 7 days prior to slaughter, each flock to be moved for controlled marketing must be tested for H5/H7 LPAI using a test approved by the Cooperating State Agency and found to be free of the virus.

(2) Poultry moved for controlled marketing will not be eligible for indemnity under proposed 9CFR part 56.3.

E-8 Recommended Response To Confirmed Infection Of Any Class Of Poultry With Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

- E-8-a Establish high-risk (5 mile radius around all confirmed premises) and buffer (15 mile radius around all confirmed premises) zones around the “Affected” premise (premise of known infection). The high-risk and buffer zones are considered the quarantine area.
- E-8-b All epidemiological traces will be followed up, whether in the quarantine zone or not. All “At-Risk” premises (see definition in next paragraph) shall be quarantined until 21 days after last known transfer and no mortality or clinical signs are evident. After 30 days from the last transfer, if no mortality or clinical signs are evident, the quarantine may be removed from the “At-Risk” premise and the facility is classified as a “Restricted” (see subsequent definition) premise for an additional five months. Surveillance and monitoring of “Restricted” premises, consisting of dead bird pick-up with virus isolation and pathogenicity testing of suspicious birds will be conducted throughout the five month period.
- E-8-c “At-Risk” premises are premises where any one of the following has occurred:
- i. Birds have been received from or sent birds to an “Affected” premise.
  - ii. Birds have had direct contact with persons who have handled infected birds.
  - iii. Birds have had direct contact with products, equipment or materials exposed to infected birds.
  - iv. The farm is adjacent to an “Affected” premise.
- E-8-d “Restricted” premises are the following for the period in which surveillance and monitoring continue:
- i. “Affected” premises which have been depopulated and subsequently cleaned and disinfected.
  - ii. “At-Risk” premises after 30 days from the last arrival from or shipment to an affected premise if there are no clinical signs or mortality indicative of infection.
- E-8-e Premise guard can be reduced to daylight basis after depopulation and burial of affected flock. Premise guard can be eliminated after cleaning and disinfection of the facilities.
- E-8-f Control all movement of birds (commercial poultry, pet, game fowl, back yard, etc.) equipment, and people within the buffer zone.
- E-8-g All companies remove service personnel, vaccination crews, and anyone else

moving from farm to farm.

- E-8-h Contact utility companies and make arrangements for utility meters within the buffer zone to be read by residents or estimated.
- E-8-i Discourage any bird owner/grower from having contact with others and prohibit entry into any facilities other than those they are responsible for.
- E-8-j No new birds allowed into quarantine zone
- E-8-k Only movement onto farms in the quarantine area will be;
  - i. Feed trucks (by permit from TAHC) which are cleaned and disinfected both ways. Trucks should have no direct contact with poultry. Feed truck should be dedicated to the quarantine zone. If no mill is located within the quarantine zone, additional feed should be transferred to the quarantine dedicated truck(s) at the edge of the buffer zone.
  - ii. Transportation trucks (case by case permit from TAHC) which are cleaned and disinfected both ways. Trucks are to transport poultry from a single farm directly to the processing facility. All birds must be slaughtered and inspected within 24 hours of transportation. Catch crews will visit single farms and undergo complete biosecurity procedures before and after each farm contact.
  - iii. If a slaughter facility is located in the quarantine zone, all birds going to the facility from outside the quarantine zone will be permitted (case by case from TAHC) and all transportation equipment will undergo cleaning and disinfection prior to leaving the quarantine zone.
  - iv. Commercial eggs (by permit from TAHC) can leave the quarantine zone in new one-way packaging materials. Eggs must be sanitized prior to packing. Transportation equipment will undergo cleaning and disinfection prior to leaving the quarantine zone.
  - v. Hatching eggs (by permit from TAHC) can leave the quarantine zone in new one-way packaging materials. Eggs must be sanitized prior to packing. Transportation equipment will undergo cleaning and disinfection prior to leaving the quarantine zone.
- E-8-l Implement area surveillance. Companies will contact producers daily by phone to track mortality and communicate other information.
- E-8-m Establish a dead bird pick up service for pet birds, game birds, yards birds, etc. Dead birds are to be double bagged and placed in metal or heavy plastic containers at entry to premise. Courier will bag, label, disinfect and transport dead birds to containment facility or otherwise assure proper carcass disposal.
- E-8-n Vaccination of any type within the quarantine zone is discouraged to limit

- movement of personnel and equipment. See section F for AI vaccination protocol.
- E-8-o Perimeter guards to the buffer zone will be reduced to daylight only if no new outbreaks occur 21 days after cleaning and disinfection of last infected premise.
  - E-8-p Thirty days after cleaning and disinfection of last infected premise, perimeter guards can be eliminated and re-population of facilities not classified as “Restricted” may commence. Quarantine, Buffer and High-Risk zones will be removed, surveillance and monitoring of the area will be conducted for five months.
  - E-8-q Surveillance and monitoring shall consist of dead bird pick-up with virus isolation and pathogenicity testing of suspicious birds. Any suspicious flock shall immediately be visited and managed according to these guidelines.

E-9 Recommended Response To Positive Serological Sample From Any Class Of Poultry With H5 Or H7 Avian Influenza, No Clinical Symptoms, Low Pathology Infection.

E-9-a Impose immediate quarantine.

E-9-b Implement area surveillance.

E-9-c Slaughter / move flocks and products only under permission of health officials.

- i. Commercial eggs must be placed in new one-way single use materials and moved directly to major retail markets, no multiple stop route deliveries. All packing materials destroyed immediately after use.
- ii. No traffic to or from other poultry or egg facilities.
- iii. All trucks are cleaned and disinfected immediately after departure from facility. Thoroughly clean and disinfect truck after unloading.
- iv. Closely monitor flock status, immediately report any change in mortality or other symptoms.
- v. Implement stringent biosecurity.
  1. Absolutely no visitors.
  2. Utilize minimum number of personnel to manage flock, shower in – shower out highly recommended.
  3. No movement of personnel to or from flock.
  4. Make all deliveries and pick-ups at end of route, decontaminate vehicle immediately after leaving farm.
  5. Promptly dispose of all mortality.
  6. Handle all waste products under guidance of health officials.

E-10 Recommended Response To Infection Of Any Class Of Poultry With Avian Influenza Other Than H5 Or H7, No Clinical Signs, With Or Without Virus Isolation.

E-10-a. Implement area surveillance.

E-10-b. Slaughter / move flocks and products only under permission of health officials.