

Section F – Vaccination for Avian Influenza

F-1 Administrative approval of use of vaccine:

F-1-a Any AI vaccination program would require a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Texas Animal Health Commission, the poultry producer concerned, and USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS). The agreement would include adherence to an approved flock eradication plan using sentinel birds to assure that virus has been eliminated from each individual poultry house or unit, in addition to biosecurity plans, monthly reports, and an agreement to depopulate and dispose of spent hens.

1. As worldwide epidemiology continues to evolve regarding AI, this plan may be amended to utilize the best available technology (lab testing, vaccine technologies, etc.) with the consent of TAHC, USDA-VS

F-1-b The agreement will be considered null and void, authorization for use of the vaccine will be withdrawn, and the vaccination program will be cancelled should the following conditions emerge:

1. There is genetic evidence that AI isolates have mutated toward a highly pathogenic form.
2. There is failure to meet protocol requirements.
3. There is an indication after six months that vaccine is not benefiting the eradication effort. (Seroconversion of sentinels or other evidence of virus circulation).
4. There are significant trade bans imposed on the United States.

F-1-c The MOU will include the following requirements:

1. Accurate records of all commercial vaccine purchased and used.
2. Confirmation that vaccine use is strictly limited to poultry on the positive premises and those destined for placement on the positive premises.
3. Confirmation that the accepted vaccination protocol is being followed.
4. Accurate characterization of houses on the affected premises as positive or negative with vaccinates and sentinels.
5. Access to all production and mortality records.
6. A flock eradication plan.
7. A compliance agreement for each farm regarding use of the AI inactivated

vaccine.

8. GIS coordinates for each production premises
9. Vaccine records showing that only vaccinated pullets are being used under an “all-in/all-out” system in test negative houses on the affected premises.

F-2 Purchase and Administration of the Vaccine:

F-2-a Vaccine would be purchased by the company and be under control and permitted for use by the Texas Animal Health Commission. The Federal role in the vaccination process will be limited to oversight and monitoring. It is the responsibility of the Texas Animal Health Commission and the company to administer the vaccine.

F-2-b Vaccine will be administered by appropriate route and dosage.

F-3 Replacement Poultry - Commercial or Breeder flocks

F-3-a All provisions of Sections E-4 and E-8 will be in effect.

F-3-b Birds should be vaccinated a minimum of two weeks prior to moving to positive premises, so that there has been adequate time for antibody response.

F-3-c A cohort of 75 replacement pullets will remain unvaccinated for AI. These will be individually leg banded and tested for negative AI status by AGID.

F-3-d Upon movement to the laying house, these unvaccinated sentinels will be randomly placed throughout the positive premise.

F-3-e Once moved to the laying house, every two weeks, 20 of the sentinels will be serologically sampled and tested by AGID. These samples will be collected or overseen by the Texas Animal Health Commission.

F-3-f Positive AGID results will require sampling of (30) sentinels to determine whether virus is present using RT-PCR or virus isolation.

F-4 Vaccination of laying hens (Commercial Layers, Breeders, and Turkeys)

F-4-a All provisions of Section E-4 and E-8 will be in effect.

F-4-b A minimum of 75 unvaccinated hens randomly placed throughout the laying house will be individually leg banded and tested for negative AI status by AGID.

F-4-c 20 of the sentinels will be serologically sampled and tested by AGID every 14 days. These samples will be collected or overseen by the Texas

Animal Health Commission.

F-4-d Positive AGID results will require sampling of (30) sentinels to determine whether virus is present using RT-PCR or virus isolation.

F-4-f Spent hens must be depopulated in accordance with Texas Animal Health Commission guidance after completing their production cycle.

F-5 Monitoring following depopulation

F-5-a Following depopulation of all positive flocks, 20 sentinels from each affected house will be monitored every 14 days.

F-5-b After 3 months of negative sentinel tests, 20 sentinels from each affected house will be monitored every 30 days.

F-5-c After 6 months of negative sentinel tests, the need to continue vaccination will be evaluated by the Texas Animal Health Commission and the Emergency Disease Task Force of the Texas Poultry Federation.

Section G - Flock Valuations

Omitted from Web version