Exhibition Guidance

This document can aid organizers in deciding whether or not an event should be cancelled, in addition to providing guidance to reduce risk of spread during an exhibition.

Event Consideration:

It is important for event organizers to consider the prevalence of HPAI and LPAI in the region. Some areas may be higher risk due to frequent waterfowl exposure.

Certain exhibits are inherently higher risk for spreading influenza to other birds. There are a variety of risk factors that can be discussed with a veterinarian or the state office.

Organizers should develop contingency plans as a precaution in the event an outbreak occurs.

It is recommended to cancel higher risk events this year.

Methods of risk reduction:

Facility Preparation:

Maintain complete separation from wild birds.

Clean and disinfect (C&D) the exhibition center before and after the event.

Prepare hand wash stations.

Post biosecurity and hygiene reminders.

Sample signage.
Veterinary Care:

Require vet check prior to entry or upon entry.

Documentation: Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) aka “health certificate”

Provide a vet on-site to examine birds and provide outreach.

i.e. Check 2-3 times daily for symptoms and be available for questions, concerns, and general outreach.

Bird management

Limit number of animals brought for exhibition and/or

Reduce stocking density- (limit the numbers of birds in each class or event, and provide more tables, counter space, and separation of participants as needed).

Shorten exhibition time.

i.e. Different classes of poultry on different days for faster in and out.

It is strongly recommended public interaction be restricted during exhibits and the handling of birds be limited to people familiar with biosecurity practices.

Notify ISDA of any bird illness: less feed/water intake, fatigue, dehydration.

Hygiene

Provide hand-washing stations & Hand sanitizer stations.

Have plenty of trash cans available at these stations and at building entrances.

Post signage:

i.e. Do not touch or feed birds; WASH HANDS.
Guidance For Bird Exhibitors

Keep in mind that influenza virus can be on you, your clothes, and objects or tools. **The BIGGEST risk is directly from wild waterfowl (ducks and geese).**

- Watch your birds for signs of decreased appetite and respiratory signs or symptoms prior to entry. If any birds are showing symptoms, please stay home.

- Prior to entry, contact the exhibition venue to prepare enough boarding space for your birds to keep them as separate as possible from other participants and their birds.

- Practice good personal hygiene at home and at the exhibit.

**Wash your hands often!**

- Arrive at the fair with clean equipment, clothes, and boots:
  - Designate specific clothes and shoes for the exhibition center, and
  - Avoid sharing equipment.

- Minimize your contact with other birds on exhibition grounds (and everywhere else)
  - Don’t pet, feed, or handle other birds.

- When returning home, your exhibition birds should be isolated from the rest of your flock to prevent exposing your other birds to pathogens from the event for about 14 days.

Contact Idaho State Department of Agriculture with questions and concerns:
Phone: 208-332-8540  Email: animal.information@isda.idaho.gov
What is influenza?

- Influenza is a respiratory and gastrointestinal virus, meaning it can affect birds’ breathing and digestion pathways.
- Influenza viruses can be destroyed with soap.
- Virus particles prefer moisture, so make sure to dry whatever you have cleaned!
- Influenza can be carried on objects like clothes and tools.

What does influenza do in birds?

- There are many types of influenza:
  - Some affect only people or only birds, and
  - Some types can infect both animals and people.
- Wild waterfowl (geese and ducks) are known carriers of some types of influenza viruses that can be harmful for other birds.
- Some strains of influenza are especially dangerous to our domestic birds, like poultry (chickens and turkeys):
  - These strains can be called Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI).
  - These strains are not usually contagious to humans, but people that interact with birds need to take the most caution.