

Dear Vermont Service Providers,

This past year, the United States experienced a devastating outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). The United States Department of Agriculture expects the disease to return in the fall of 2015 or spring of 2016; and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFAM) is using this time to plan for such an emergency. Enclosed you will find resources to assist producers, distributors, and others, in protecting their business and ensuring that their markets and distribution are not drastically impacted should HPAI be detected in Vermont. Preparation efforts are designed to ease the burden that a HPAI outbreak could place on Vermont poultry producers, slaughter facilities, diversified farms, and other stakeholders.

The packet includes:

- Business and Market Protection Checklist;
- USDA Producer Questions List;
- Biosecurity Form.

Please distribute these materials amongst your constituents, staff, and partner organizations.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please contact Kristin Haas, State Veterinarian, at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets at Kristin.Haas@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

Kristin Haas
State Veterinarian, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Avian Influenza: Business and Market Protection Checklist

Planning and Prevention

1. Are you familiar with the symptoms of [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#) (HPAI), preventative measures, the response protocol, and the best people to reach out to?
2. Have you completed the attached Producer Preparedness Biosecurity Form and submitted it to the Agency of Agriculture?
3. Have you obtained a federal premises identification number from the State Veterinarian's Office? If not, please call **802-828-2421** to obtain a unique farm identifier which will aid regulatory officials in providing information pre-outbreak and during a disease response.
4. Are you effectively implementing disease prevention measures on your farm? Do you have a [robust system](#) in place so that you, any workers, and/or visitors to your farm can easily sanitize their boots and vehicles?

Business Continuity

1. Does your business insurance policy cover losses associated with an animal disease outbreak?
2. Does your business insurance policy cover your living expenses in emergency situations?
3. Have you thought about your action plan if HPAI should infect your farm, a neighboring farm, or the State of Vermont?
4. Can your current markets and/or distribution channels accommodate alternative products? i.e. frozen rather than fresh poultry?
5. What marketing and communication channels (Facebook, email, Twitter) do you have in place to reach your customers if HPAI is detected in Vermont, at a neighboring farm, or on your farm?
6. If you have poultry that become infected with Avian Influenza on your diversified farm (dairy, produce, etc.), or a neighboring farm, there is the potential for this to disrupt and restrict the movement of **ALL GOODS**, poultry and non-poultry, on and off of your farm. Similarly, any products produced within the three weeks prior (21 days) to the detection of AI may not be eligible for sale. Have you considered offsite storage for your products should HPAI be detected in Vermont?
7. In the worst case scenario, you may experience a sudden loss in income; there are loans available that can help you get through this time and technical assistance providers can help advise you. Are you familiar with your resources and technical service providers?