



A LOOK BACK AT THE AVIAN INFLUENZA AND AN OUTLOOK FOR FUTURE OUTBREAKS

OVERVIEW

Since 2015, the highly pathogenic avian influenza (AI) virus has swept through 16 states across the nation: Arkansas, California, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin. Nearly 50 million birds died as a result of the outbreak including 213 commercial and 22 backyard flocks.

MARKET IMPACT

Everyone is affected by outbreaks of this magnitude, and the impact casts a wide net over the entire supply chain. AI outbreaks result in significant challenges for the agricultural industry, including farms, state and federal animal health organizations, and food manufacturers.

- ▶ Mass number of flocks needed to be depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease.
- ▶ Lack of product to send to market resulted in the highest egg prices ever recorded, also increasing the input costs for foods incorporating eggs and egg products.
- ▶ High demand for eggs strained producers whose flocks were not infected.
- ▶ Retailers and manufacturers scrambled to meet customer needs.

LESSONS LEARNED

- ▶ A quick response is the best response.
 - Depopulate within 24 hours of learning about infection to prevent the spread of disease.
- ▶ Communication is key to success.
 - Build partnerships and networks with state and local agriculture departments and trade associations now – before disaster strikes. Develop a plan for efficient, safe and secure depopulation.
- ▶ Catastrophes move faster than the speed of science or government.
 - Take ownership of doing the work of legally depopulating, sanitizing and preventing spread and infection rather than waiting for government or outside contractors.
- ▶ Biosecurity must be initiated at the flock level.
 - Each farm is different, and diverse programs and procedures are necessary.
- ▶ Consider protection in advance.
 - Review contracts for consistency and consider whether contracts allocate risk for the next AI outbreak.

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BIOSECURITY PREVENTION TIPS



1. Secure third-party oversight to audit biosecurity procedures and programs.
2. Register every vehicle that comes onto the farm, and don't allow unnecessary traffic onto the premises.
3. Install washing systems for trucks and other vehicles entering farm areas.
4. Eliminate or reduce "shared crews" that go from farm to farm.
5. Eliminate areas that are attractions to migratory birds and waterfowl.
6. Have personal attire and ingress/egress requirements for people entering and exiting barns and animal habitat areas.
7. Have a biosecurity officer on each farm to provide training and promote this new way of life.

FaegreBD extends thanks to the "A Breakout on Outbreaks: Lessons Learned and Preparation for the Next Avian Influenza or Other Agricultural Product Disease Outbreak" session panelists at our 2016 Food & Agriculture National Conference