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Kentucky Department of Agriculture  
*A Consumer Protection and Service Agency*

March 21, 2017

Dear Stakeholder:

Avian Influenza, commonly referred to as “Bird Flu”, is a highly contagious virus that affects domestic poultry and is believed to be spread by migrating wild birds. Transmission of Avian Influenza is primarily lateral, meaning that it spreads from bird to bird through direct or indirect contact. The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the virus in its Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) form in Tennessee in early March 2017. Additionally, the virus was found in its Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) form at a flea market in Alabama and traced to a backyard premises. On March 17, 2017 the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) and USDA APHIS confirmed a presumptive positive test on poultry for LPAI in Kentucky. LPAI can convert to HPAI in poultry causing severe death loss in flocks.

In an effort to protect Kentucky’s backyard poultry, KDA’s Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV) is placing restrictions on movement of poultry in Kentucky. The KDA OSV anticipates these protective measures to be temporary and will be amended as disease and environmental conditions dictate.

Effective this date, the following restrictions are imposed on poultry movements:

- a. All avian comingling sales and show events are banned. These include, but are not restricted to, stockyards, flea markets, swap meets, and shows.
- b. Private sale with direct farm to farm movement within Kentucky is allowed in accordance with 302 KAR 20:065 Section 7.
- c. Entry of poultry for private sale or movement must be permitted by the Office of the State Veterinarian and must have negative Avian Influenza testing within the 30 days preceding entry.
- d. Entry into Kentucky for sale is restricted to NPIP Avian Influenza H5/H7 clean facilities only.
- e. Entry of poultry from certified NPIP facilities within an HPAI infected state must also meet 302 KAR 20:250 requirements.



The Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Office of the State Veterinarian understands that these restrictions may adversely impact some individuals. After much consideration, it has been determined these restrictions are necessary to address the risk posed by this highly infective virus. We will continue to monitor this situation and make regulatory adjustments as necessary to protect Kentucky's poultry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. C. Stout', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert C. Stout, DVM  
State Veterinarian/Executive Director