

OWNER ENDORSED AVIAN HEALTH CERTIFICATE AND BIOSECURITY STATEMENT
2024

Introduction: Highly pathogenic avian influenza is a fatal and contagious disease of poultry, and has led to the loss of more than 65 million birds in the US since 2022. The virus causing this disease can be spread by infected poultry, on poultry products such as feathers and eggs, on clothing and other fomites such as packing materials, and through the air. However, if all protocols for reducing the risk of spreading disease are followed, certain poultry, feathers and eggs may be exhibited, at the Department’s discretion.

A completed Owner Endorsed Avian Health Certificate and Biosecurity Statement must accompany all avian species (including poultry), eggs, and feathers to a Pennsylvania exhibition. The certificate must be presented to exhibition management prior to cooping of all avian species or displaying of eggs or feathers. This form must be endorsed with the bird, egg, or feather owner’s signature.

Avian. Related to birds.

Poultry. The term "poultry" includes all domesticated fowl, including chickens, turkeys, ostriches, emus, rheas, cassowaries, waterfowl, and game birds (pheasants, partridge, quail, grouse, and guineas); but excludes doves, pigeons, psittacine and passerine birds.

As established in the current *Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Animal Health Requirements and Recommendations for Animal Exhibition, Including Commercial Exhibition*, an Owner Endorsed Avian Health Certificate and Biosecurity Statement must accompany avian species and poultry products to all animal exhibitions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The following information is required:

1. Exhibition Information:

a. Name of exhibition: _____

b. Address of exhibition: _____

Street, Route, or Box Number

City

State

Zip

2. Owner Information:

a. Owner name: _____

b. Owner address: _____

Street, Route, or Box Number

City

State

Zip

c. Owner telephone number: (____) _____

d. Owner email address: _____

3. Requirements for Exhibition of Feathers, Eggs, and Poultry in Pennsylvania

a. Ornamental Feathers:

(i) Sourced in the United States.

(ii) Ornamental feathers sourced from poultry to be entered into a competition or used to produce jewelry or other items to be exhibited/sold shall be free of visible manure, litter, or other debris.

(iii) Transport container shall have been cleaned and disinfected before being used to transport feathers to the exhibition.

(iv) An Owner Endorsed Avian Health Certificate and Biosecurity Statement or a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) shall accompany the feathers. If a CVI is used, endorsement of biosecurity on the Owner Endorsed Avian Health Certificate and Biosecurity Statement shall also accompany the feathers.

(v) Ornamental feathers to be entered into a competition or used to produce jewelry or other items to be exhibited/sold shall originate from a flock which is not known to be infected with avian influenza. This requirement can be met by using one of the following methods:

(aa) Ornamental feathers sourced from poultry shall originate from a flock which had a negative AI test (see testing requirements for poultry below (section c) within the 14 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition. The feathers shall be accompanied by the most recent test report (copy acceptable). OR

(bb) Ornamental feathers sourced from poultry to be entered into a competition or used to produce jewelry or other items to be exhibited/sold shall be clean, and held in a clean area separate from poultry or other poultry products for at least 120 days at a minimum of 68 degrees Fahrenheit before exhibition. The date the feathers were moved to a holding area, along with the holding temperature, shall be included on the Owner Endorsed Avian Health Certificate and Biosecurity Statement.

b. Unfertilized Poultry Eggs for Exhibition:

(i) Eggs shall be washed and sanitized in a 100-200 ppm chlorine solution or other EPA-approved disinfectant which is effective in destroying influenza virus, and dried before being placed in a carton.

(ii) Eggs shall be packaged in a new cardboard or Styrofoam carton or in a plastic carton which was cleaned, disinfected, and dried, for entry into an event.

(iii) An Owner Endorsed Avian Health Certificate and Biosecurity Statement or a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) shall accompany the eggs. If a CVI is used, endorsement of biosecurity on the Owner Endorsed Avian Health Certificate and Biosecurity Statement shall also accompany the eggs.

(iv) The source flock shall have had a negative AI test (see testing requirements for poultry below (section c) within the 14 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition.

c. Poultry for Exhibition:

(i) Poultry may be exhibited only if they will be moved immediately after judging directly to a facility for slaughter from the show grounds. All poultry exhibited in Pennsylvania at Department sponsored or funded exhibitions shall move as all-in and all-out directly to a Department or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensed slaughter facility following the animal exhibition and may not be diverted to premises other than a recognized slaughter establishment.

(ii) Arrival, exhibition and departure of the poultry shall occur within a 72-hour window. The 72 hours begin when the first poultry arrive on the show grounds, whether unloaded or not, and ends when the last poultry physically leave the premises in a vehicle.

(iii) All poultry entering a show shall be identified with official Department leg bands.

(iv) An Owner Endorsed Avian Health Certificate and Biosecurity Statement or a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) shall accompany the poultry. If a CVI is used, endorsement of biosecurity on the Owner Endorsed Avian Health Certificate and Biosecurity Statement shall also accompany the poultry.

- (v) All poultry on the show grounds shall be monitored for signs of illness, and any signs of illness shall be reported to the Department immediately (717-772-2852).
- (vi) All poultry on the show grounds shall be displayed behind barriers such as ropes to prevent public access to the poultry, with signage to prevent the public from crossing the barrier.
- (vii) Conveyances shall be cleaned and disinfected before loading to transport poultry to the show, and after returning to the premises of origin.
- (viii) **Avian Influenza Testing and Verification:**
 - (aa) All samples shall be collected by a Certified Poultry Technician or a Category II Accredited Veterinarian and shall be tested in a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory.
 - (bb) All poultry for exhibition shall originate from a flock in which a random, representative sample of a minimum of 30 birds, 3 weeks of age or older, were tested for avian influenza within the **14** days prior to opening date of the exhibition.
 - (cc) For waterfowl, cloacal swab samples shall be collected for testing. Swabs from geese and ducks may not be combined in the same tube for testing.
 - (dd) For chickens, turkeys, game birds, and ratites, blood samples (AGID testing) or tracheal or oropharyngeal swab samples (PCR testing) are acceptable samples. Samples from more than one species may not be combined in the same tube for testing.
 - (ee) The poultry shall be accompanied by the most recent test report (copy acceptable). Test results shall be negative.
 - (ff) If there are fewer than 30 birds in the flock, test all birds of age.
 - (gg) Untested birds shall not be comingled with or added to the tested flock after negative samples have been collected and before the show.

4. Verification of avian health status: All poultry for exhibition and all source flocks for eggs and feathers being exhibited or displayed are free from evidence of infectious and contagious diseases.

5. Verification of biosecurity: Biosecurity measures for all feathers, eggs, and poultry being exhibited or displayed include:

- (i) A biosecurity plan is followed on the premises where the source flock is located, to include at minimum:
 - (aa) Visitors to bird areas are restricted.
 - (bb) Anyone visiting the poultry area should have clean clothing and should have used hand sanitizer or washed their hands before handling poultry or poultry products.
 - (cc) Designated footwear or footwear that has been cleaned and disinfected is worn in the poultry area. A clear line of separation exists at the entrance to the poultry area.
- (ii) All feathers and eggs are maintained apart from the poultry flock prior to entry into the exhibition.
- (iii) All conveyances, including transport vehicles, coops, crates, boxes, and other containers used to transport animals or products to the show are cleaned to be free of visible manure, litter, or other debris.
- (iv) All coops, crates, boxes, and other containers used to transport animals or products to the show shall be disinfected with a product effective against the avian influenza virus and allowed to dry before use.
- (v) All exhibitors should follow the biosecurity guidelines: *Keeping Your Show Animals Healthy-Guidelines for Exhibitors* (11/28/23).

6. Owner Endorsement:

I certify that the above information represents a true and accurate statement regarding my bird(s), eggs, or feathers, and their home flock(s). I further attest and affirm that a “veterinarian client patient relationship” – as that phrase is defined in the Animal Exhibition Sanitation Law found at 3

Pa.C.S.A. § 2501 *et seq.* and any amendments thereto – “exists with regard to any avian species and products which I will be exhibiting”.

7. Owner Printed Name: _____

8. Owner Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

To report illness or mortality in your flock, call the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at **717-772-2852**. Forms are available on the Department website at www.agriculture.pa.gov.