

Avian Influenza Information

Cleaning, Disinfection and Testing Information

- The Nebraska Department of Agriculture is working with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), as well as with our colleagues at the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), to implement protocols for proper cleaning and disinfection of each site affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). These processes meet strict standards for public health and safety as well as environmental responsibility. It is essential to do a thorough cleaning and disinfection to eliminate any remaining disease agents in the animal housing area.
- Once the birds have been humanely euthanized and composted, all organic material (manure, bedding, feed, etc.) is removed from the facility using shovels, brooms and brushes during what is referred to as the "dry cleaning" phase. This material will be composted onsite.
- After the "dry cleaning" phase, all areas and items are washed thoroughly with detergent to remove any oil, grease or other films that could interfere with the use of disinfectant. Surfaces will then be rinsed and allowed to dry.
- Once dry, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) licensed disinfectant is applied and remains wet on the surfaces for the label-specified contact time. After the contact time, surfaces are rinsed again and allowed to air dry.
- In the case of Dixon 1-5, an additional preventative step will be taken to ensure the virus is killed by heating the buildings to 100 degrees for 72 consecutive hours.
- Upon successful completion of the cleaning and disinfection process, environmental samples will be collected and tested to confirm that the virus has been eliminated. NDA staff, working in collaboration with USDA APHIS, will determine the number and the frequency of samples that will need to be collected.
- Buildings must remain empty for at least 3-4 weeks after the cleaning and disinfection process; after that time NDA and USDA APHIS will consult and determine whether the facility can be released from quarantine and can begin the repopulation process.