FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:
Stop for Poultry & Waterfowl Exhibitions

What types of poultry and waterfowl exhibitions are included as part of the newly enacted stop?

This stop *includes (but is not limited to)* shows, exhibitions, swap meets, petting zoos at fairs, and game bird/waterfowl fair displays. This stop *does NOT* include or affect egg hatching exhibits, pigeon races (if they meet certain criteria), or permanent poultry exhibits at zoos.

As part of this stop, under what criteria can pigeon races be held?

This stop does not extend to racing pigeons if the following criteria are met:

1. Only lofts certified by the American Racing Pigeon Union may race.
2. Each certified loft must have a premises identification number.
3. For each event - a list of participants will be provided to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's State Veterinarian within 72 hours after the event.
4. The American Racing Pigeon Union must provide a current list of Michigan certified lofts to the State Veterinarian and as changes are made.
5. Crates used for transporting pigeons can only have pigeons from one loft within a crate.
6. Vehicle and crates used to transport pigeons must be clean and disinfected after transporting the birds.

In addition, it is recommended racing pigeons do not fly over the counties of Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Tuscola.

Will this stop impact hatching eggs at the fair?

No. Hatching National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) certified eggs using an incubator would pose a minimal risk as NPIP hatcheries are routinely tested for avian influenza.

During the stop, are eggs able to be exhibited?

Yes, eggs can be exhibited. MDARD recommends eggs are washed, sanitized, and placed in new egg crate and all material be disposed of at the end of the fair/show.

Will the stop impact exotic and/or display birds at fairs—such as peafowl, quail, parrots, parakeets, emus, and ostriches?

Yes. Even though some of the species listed above are not considered poultry, all birds would not be exhibited at fairs until the stop was over.

Will the stop include market birds at the fair?

While chickens and turkeys could still be raised and processed, they may not be exhibited live.

Can chicks, eggs, or other poultry still be sold at fairs or through private sale?

Yes. This stop will **NOT** affect sales and commerce. This includes movement to processors.

Are birds able to be sold at livestock markets and/or live bird markets?

Yes. Livestock auction markets licensed with MDARD are exempt. "Live bird markets" means a market that receives live birds and that are slaughtered and processed for the buyer.

What about petting zoos at farms?

A petting zoo at a farm with a display in an area where there are NO other poultry is allowed. Permanent zoos and exhibits are not part of this stop.

How long will the stop last? And, can the stop be reinstated?

The stop will remain in place until the state of Michigan goes **30 days** without a new detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in domestic poultry.

If the stop is lifted and a new detection is subsequently found, the stop will be reinstated.

How can backyard/hobby/show flocks best be protected from HPAI?

At this time, HPAI is mainly being spread through migrating wild birds. It is important to take every step possible to keep wild birds and their germs away from domestic flocks. More information on these preventative measures can be found at michigan.gov/birdflu and on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Defend the Flock website.

Can people/kids get sick from avian influenza? What about our food?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the public health risk associated with these avian influenza detections remains low. No birds or bird products infected with HPAI will enter the commercial food chain. As a reminder, people are encouraged to properly handle and cook all poultry and eggs.

Michigan Department of
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