



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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## **MDARD Requirements and Recommendations for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Dairy and Poultry for Fair Organizers, Supervisors, Managers, and Exhibitors.**

May 10, 2024

*This document contains frequently asked questions for Michigan fairs and exhibitions in response to the HPAI outbreak.*

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) issued the “HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order” Determination of Extraordinary Emergency on May 1, 2024, to control and prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), effective Wednesday, May 8, 2024. MDARD released further guidance regarding the order on May 3, 2024. Below are frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to the order and guidance document.

Additional information can also be found at [Michigan.gov/BirdFlu](https://Michigan.gov/BirdFlu). For further questions, please contact the MDARD Customer Service Center at 1-800-292-3939 (Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., EST) or email at [MDA-info@michigan.gov](mailto:MDA-info@michigan.gov).

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. Can people/kids get sick from avian influenza? What about our food?**

According to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov), and the [Food and Drug Administration](https://www.fda.gov), the public health risk associated with these avian influenza detections remains low. There are procedures in place to keep animals or animal products infected with HPAI out of the commercial food chain; the U.S. food supply remains safe and stable. As a reminder, people are encouraged [to properly handle](#) and cook all poultry, eggs, and raw meat and to consume only pasteurized milk.

#### **2. What types of poultry and waterfowl exhibitions are included as part of the newly enacted order?**

The HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order includes (but is not limited to) shows, exhibitions, swap meets, petting zoos at fairs, and game bird/waterfowl fair displays. This order does NOT include or affect egg hatching exhibits, pigeon races (if they meet certain criteria, outlined below), or permanent poultry exhibits at zoos.

#### **3. As part of this order, under what criteria can pigeon races be held?**

The HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order 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 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.

It is recommended racing pigeons do not fly over the poultry-dense counties of Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Gratiot, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Lenawee, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Tuscola.

**4. Will this order 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.

**5. During the order, 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.

**6. Will the order 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 HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order ends.

**7. Will the order include market birds at the fair?**

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

**8. Can chicks, eggs, or other poultry still be sold through private sale?**

The HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order will **NOT** affect sales and commerce. This includes movement to processors.

**9. 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. Anyone who visits these kinds of markets and has poultry or cattle at home must take necessary precautions to avoid bringing the disease either to or from the market.

**10. What about on-farm and off-farm (traveling) petting zoos?**

All poultry and dairy operations should practice enhanced biosecurity and limit or restrict visitors; operations with no poultry and no lactating dairy cattle are not part of this order. Currently, as the only restrictions for exhibition or exposition are for lactating dairy cattle and dairy cattle in the last two months of pregnancy, as well as all poultry, petting zoos must abide by these restrictions until such time the HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order is lifted.

**11. How long will the order last? And, can the order be reinstated?**

For poultry, the HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order 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.

For lactating cows, the HPAI Risk Reduction Response Order will remain in place until the state of Michigan goes **60 days** without a new detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in domestic cattle.

If the order is lifted and a new detection is subsequently found, the order could be reinstated. The circumstances surrounding each new detection would be analyzed to determine the appropriate level of response needed.

**12. How can domestic animals best be protected from HPAI?**

It is important to take every step possible to keep wild birds and their germs away from domestic animals. More information on these preventative measures can be found at [michigan.gov/birdflu](http://michigan.gov/birdflu) and on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s [website](#). Strong biosecurity measures are the best defense against HPAI at this time.