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CONTROL ORDER REQUIRING SPECIFIC HANDLING, TRANSPORT, AND STORAGE OF POULTRY LITTER DUE TO HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

Following the announcement of presumptive positive H5 avian influenza in snow geese in Sussex County, the Department confirmed positive highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on a Kent County poultry farm with early indications that the virus is the D1.1 genotype found in wild birds. Since the snow geese are not just found on the coast but will move inland to forage on farm fields and can move as far into Maryland and New Jersey in a day, this creates a significant risk for spreading HPAI to commercial flocks. Therefore, the Department seeks to reduce risk to poultry farms by issuing this Control Order requiring specific handling, transport, and storage of poultry litter for the entire state of Delaware.

This Control Order is in effect for 30 days, and may be renewed based upon the status of HPAI in the state.

The following requirements are in place for Delaware, in its entirety:

- For any poultry farm, poultry litter on the farm must be in a covered manure storage structure or stockpiled and covered to reduce access to wildlife.
- Any poultry producer or transporter moving poultry litter off a farm to stockpile it in the field or other location, must clean and disinfect any conveyances on and off the farm to reduce the risk of spreading HPAI.
- All poultry litter stockpiled in the field must be covered so wild birds and other animals cannot gain access.

This **Control Order** is issued by the authority of the Delaware Department of Agriculture under the General Provisions of the Department, Ref. Title 3, Ch. 1, § 101(8)(9):

(8) Exercise authority and make and adopt regulations covering the possession, control, care, and maintenance of, and take measures necessary to control disease in and ensure the welfare of, the following domesticated species: poultry and livestock, including but not limited to bovine, camilid, cervidae, equine, swine, ruminants, ratites, rabbits, poultry, and other animals harvested for food, fiber, fur or leather;

(9) Devise and execute measures necessary to mitigate disease occurrences in animal species, if such disease is able to affect poultry or livestock or is capable of causing disease in humans. For rabies refer to Chapter 82 of this title.

Authorized By:

Michael T. Scuse, Secretary
Delaware Department of Agriculture