

MOVEMENT GUIDANCE – MOVING RAISED-FOR-RELEASE MATURE UPLAND GAME BIRDS TO A HUNTING PRESERVE

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MOVEMENT: USDA Review and revisions - **Completed February 2023**; Final USDA Clearance - **In Progress**

Moving raised-for-release mature upland game birds from a state within the United States with a HPAI detection to a hunting preserve located within or outside of the infected state represent a **low** risk, provided that the movement guidance below has been met.

MOVEMENT GUIDANCE INCLUDES:

1. Upland game birds that are moving from a premises that meets the criteria defined within the specific plan (i.e., Secure Upland Gamebird Supply plan), meets criteria that are equivalent to those of a Monitored Premises designation to demonstrate that it is not an infected nor a suspect nor a contact premises, and has a national premises identification number.
2. A Pre-Movement Isolation Period (PMIP) is established as defined in the specific plan, and for the duration defined for the type of movement requested.
3. Product-specific biosecurity as described in individual plan is implemented.
4. The route to delivery is acceptable.
5. Load-out, live haul, and delivery biosecurity is implemented.
6. Negative RRT-PCR test results of one pooled sample of swabs from 11 birds collected within 36 hours prior to a movement of birds off the farm; or Negative RRT-PCR tests on one pool of swabs from 11 birds collected at least every 8 days AND negative antigen capture test results of three pooled samples of swabs per biosecure unit collected from five birds immediately prior to moving the birds.

1. Upland game birds are moving from a premises that meets the criteria defined within the specific plan, meets criteria that are equivalent to those of a Monitored Premises designation to demonstrate that it is not an infected nor a suspect nor a contact premises, and has a national premises identification number.

- Upland game bird species considered include pheasant, chukar, or bobwhite quail
- To be included within the scope of the SUGS Plan, upland game bird premises must:
 - Be located outside a Control Area (i.e. more than 10 km from any infected premises), but is located in a state where HPAI has been detected
 - Not raise or possess any ducks (including domestic or game species) or any other poultry (i.e. broiler or laying chickens, turkeys, other hobby species of minor

gallinaceous birds used for ornamental purposes, exhibition, or backyard companionship) on-site

- Not sell to or be involved with Live Bird Markets
 - Have no unexplained mortality, no unexplained clinical signs, and no unexplained changes in production parameters
 - Have biosecurity measures acceptable to state and federal authorities
 - Update the SUGS Monitored Premise Equivalence Questionnaire every day that a movement of birds off the farm occurs to document that no epidemiological links exist
- An accurate national premises identification number (i.e., 7 character alphanumeric code as described in 9 CFR § 71.1, not the state ID) or other acceptable ID system for movement is needed.

2. A Pre-Movement Isolation Period (PMIP) is established as defined in the specific plan, and for the duration defined for the type of movement requested.

- The PMIP starts 8 days prior to the first scheduled movement date after an outbreak in the state has begun and ends when all infected farms in the state have been depopulated.
 - Other durations may be permitted in consultation with state authorities (e.g., the first few days of an outbreak).

3. Product-specific biosecurity as described in individual plan is implemented

- Non-critical operational visits should be scheduled to occur outside of the PMIP.
- Activities that have a risk for lateral transmission of HPAI virus are prohibited. Specifically:
 - **Off-farm disposal of mortality is prohibited, if not already implemented.** Risks associated with dead bird disposal on-site must be managed.
 - **Off-farm removal of manure or litter is prohibited, if not already implemented.** Risks associated with manure or litter movement on-site must be managed.
 - **Garbage pick-up sites on the farm must be located outside of the Perimeter Buffer Area (PBA).** Garbage pick-up vehicles and personnel should not cross the PBA at any time during the PMIP.
 - **All non-critical visitors are prohibited from entering farms.** All non-critical, routine, or operational visits must be replaced by telephone communication. Non-critical visitors who work with or have contact with commercial poultry operations (farm, hatchery, processing plant, etc.), other upland game bird farms, or have contact with a non-commercial poultry flock (backyard birds or hobby farms with birds) are prohibited from entering farms.

- **Non-critical equipment (e.g., lawn maintenance equipment) is prohibited** from being moved onto the premises.
- **Moving live upland game birds or poultry onto the premises is prohibited.**
- **Moving any type of game bird product or live bird to any type of premises** (i.e., hunting preserve, other game bird farm, backyard farm, etc.) **located within a Control Area is prohibited.**
- **Movement of product, equipment, people, and vehicles to a premises with ducks on-site or to a premises that engages in Live Bird Market sales is prohibited.**
- Critical operational visits may continue during the PMIP when specific biosecurity measures are in place. These critical visits may include: Feed delivery from a stand-alone feed mill, and veterinary visits to address changes in bird health or assisting in sampling birds for surveillance purposes.
 - For all critical operations visitors or personnel, people who have contact with other birds and/or poultry must shower and change clothes before entering the premises and also wear necessary protective clothing and footwear as described in appropriate biosecurity protocols.
 - For all vehicles and equipment entering the premises during PMIP, vehicles and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected prior to entering premises.
 - Feed delivery in a dedicated truck that does not deliver to any premises within the Control Area and is coming directly from a stand-alone feed mill.
 - Feed truck biosecurity
 - The outside of the vehicle must be C&D at or near the premises before entering premise if it crosses the designated Perimeter Buffer Area. A route should be selected in consultation with a poultry veterinarian or production manager to minimize contact and proximity with live poultry and poultry products.
 - Keep windows closed at farm to ensure no flies enter the cab.
 - Feed truck driver biosecurity
 - Do not leave the truck cab if possible during delivery.
 - Do not enter any upland game bird pen.
 - Put on disposable boots before getting out of the truck cab. Reenter the cab of the truck and remove boots before placing feet onto the floorboards. Leave the disposable boots on the farm.
 - Wear disposable gloves while on the farm and remove them before getting into the cab.
 - Sanitize hands using appropriate hand sanitizer or wash hands with a disinfectant solution before leaving and after reentering the cab.
 - Spray the cab interior floors, pedals and bottoms of feet with disinfectant after every stop.

- Visiting other upland game bird farms or poultry farms is prohibited for people who work on upland game bird farms. People should only have contact with their assigned flocks.
 - Entering a pen is prohibited unless the person is wearing clothing dedicated to the farm and footwear dedicated to the pen.
 - Employees should shower and change to clean clothes before leaving the farm, when possible.
- For movements of other upland game bird products and/or live birds (i.e., started birds) during an active outbreak during which you are moving mature upland game bird to release, the following mitigations should be followed:
 - Moving any type of upland game bird product or live bird to any type of premises (i.e., hunting preserve, other game bird farm, backyard farm, etc.) located within a Control Area is prohibited
 - All movements of products other than live birds must occur via a third party courier service (e.g., USPS, UPS, or Fedex). Direct on-site pick-ups of product are prohibited. Direct deliveries of products to destination premises are discouraged as described in the SUGS PMIP document.
 - All movements of live birds to other upland game bird farms will be halted unless they follow the same load-out, live haul, and delivery biosecurity for moving mature upland game birds to release (outlined below).
 - All movements of live birds to off-site processing plants that process commercial poultry (i.e., chickens or turkeys) and other susceptible species are prohibited.

4. The route to delivery is acceptable.

- The route for transport should be selected in consultation with a poultry veterinarian or production manager to minimize contact with and proximity to live poultry and poultry products.
- The route for transport may not pass through any Control Areas.

5. Load-out, live haul, and delivery biosecurity is implemented.

The following load-out, live haul, and delivery procedures are required to be in place:

- The minimum necessary number of non-resident personnel (i.e., those farm workers who DO NOT have living quarters on-site) up to a maximum of four can be present on-site to assist with catching and loading birds onto a vehicle
 - There is no limit on the number of resident personnel (i.e. those farm workers that have living quarters on-site) which may participate in load-out procedures.
- Crates used to deliver birds contain no bedding of any kind.
 - Crates are cleaned and disinfected using an appropriate procedure before returning to the game bird premises.
 - Alternatively, disposable crates or boxes may be used.

- Crates used to deliver birds are not to touch the ground or enter a holding pen at the delivery site
 - Tarps must be used as a barrier between ground at the delivery site and crates. Tarps must not contact the vehicle and must be disposed of at the delivery site.
 - Birds are required to be transferred into holding pens by hand or gently dumped into pens. Crates cannot cross the Line of Separation.
- The following delivery driver protocols must be in place:
 - In the event that a farm worker will perform deliveries, a maximum of one person (i.e., serving as the truck driver) performs bird deliveries to other premises.
 - Put on disposable booties before getting out of the truck cab. Reenter the cab of the truck and remove booties before placing feet onto the floorboards. Discard the disposable booties before returning to the farm.
 - Wear disposable gloves while at the delivery site. Remove and leave them on-site before getting into the cab.
 - Sanitize hands using appropriate hand sanitizer or wash hands with a disinfectant solution before leaving and after reentering the cab.
- The following delivery truck protocols must in place:
 - Keep vehicle windows closed at delivery site to ensure no flies enter the cab.
 - Spray insecticide inside trucks as needed to eliminate the transporting of flies from farm to farm during warm weather.
 - Spray the floors, pedals, and bottoms of feet with disinfectant after every stop.
 - The outside of all vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected (i.e., using a biosecure truck wash or commercial car wash) before returning to the farm.

6. Negative RRT-PCR test results of one pooled sample of swabs from 11 birds collected within 36 hours prior to a movement of birds off the farm; or Negative RRT-PCR tests on one pool of swabs from 11 birds collected at least every 8 days AND negative antigen capture test results of three pooled samples per biosecure unit of swabs collected from five birds immediately prior to moving the birds.

- PMIP load-out active surveillance
 - Option A: RRT-PCR testing by NAHLN labs of one pooled sample per biosecure unit (i.e., a group of birds that are protected with a common biosecure entrance such as a group of pens or cages) of oropharyngeal or tracheal swabs from 11 birds collected within 36 hours prior to a movement of birds off the farm.
 - Option B: RRT-PCR testing by NAHLN labs of one pooled samples per pen of oropharyngeal or tracheal swabs from 11 birds at least every 8 days with additional antigen capture tests of three pooled samples per biosecure unit of oropharyngeal or tracheal swabs from five birds every day that a movement of birds off the farm occurs.

- Prioritization of birds selected for sampling places dead birds as the first priority, then sick birds, then healthy birds. Bird selection is dependent on the mortality and morbidity present within the biosecure unit at the time of sample collection.