

8 September 2026

H5 Bird flu – Guidance for agricultural shows and bird events

Biosecurity mitigations and decision framework

Introduction

This guidance has been developed to support agricultural shows and other events involving poultry or captive birds to manage the risk of H5 bird flu. Event organisers are encouraged to have a **biosecurity plan** in place and to review and update their existing plans to incorporate the measures outlined in this guidance.

Minimum biosecurity measures

- Event duration is a maximum of two days.
- Do not include avian species in petting zoos or other high-public-contact exhibits.
- The facility should not be accessible by wild birds, eg. should be held within a pavilion or shed structure and not out in the open.
- Keep an exhibitor register with contact details, bird species/type/number and the location where participating birds are normally kept, supporting rapid tracing if required. This includes buyer details of where birds are sold.
- Do not accept birds that have been within a Restricted Emergency Zone (REZ), Control Emergency Zone (CEZ), Infected Area Emergency Zone (IAEZ) area during the previous 28 days, or that will return to one of these locations within 28 days after the gathering.*
- Do not accept birds housed on the same premises as commercial poultry, or birds that share or will share equipment, facilities or personnel with commercial poultry within 28 days after the event.
- Only accept birds from flocks that have been free from signs consistent with H5 HPAI for the preceding 28 days.
- At the show/gathering, house birds individually, or in combination if they are from the same source flock and use an impervious barrier between immediately adjacent cages.
- Separate waterfowl, including ducks and geese, within the facility from other avian species.
- Drinking water provided to birds at the gathering should be mains water (chlorinated water).
- Limit direct human contact with birds to people required to care for them and approved show officials and minimise direct contact between birds from different owners.
- Clean and disinfect cages, equipment and any other surfaces that have been in contact with birds at the conclusion of the event. Remove gross contamination such as litter and faeces promptly. Litter should be appropriately disposed of via landfill.
- After the show, recommend isolation of returning birds from other susceptible animals for 14 days and monitor them for signs of illness or unusual mortality.
- Premises containing birds that attended a gathering should not trade poultry produce for 28 days after the gathering. This includes selling or gifting of eggs.

If a sick or dead wild bird is found at a show

If sick poultry or captive birds are presented at a bird gathering, or there is a mortality of an exhibited bird at a gathering, organisers should do the following:

- Immediately isolate the sick bird or carcass in a dedicated quarantine area away from public access.
- Ensure those handling the bird use appropriate PPE including:
 - Latex, vinyl or nitrile gloves
 - N95 or P2 mask
 - Protective eyewear such as glasses or a face shield
 - Coveralls or protective clothing that is disposed of or washed after exposure
 - Washable boots
- Report the finding to NSW DPIRD via the [online reporting form](#) or emergency animal disease hotline on 1800 675 888, after which DPIRD will be able to provide further advice and direction,
- If a sick or dead wild bird is found near a gathering of poultry or birds at a show or event:
 - **Avoid** - do not touch, handle or move sick or dead wild birds as outlined on www.nsw.gov.au/H5birdflu dpiird.nsw.gov.au/ai
 - **Record** the location, species and number of sick or dead birds.
 - **Report** sick or dead wildlife via the [Online Reporting Form](#) or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888
- Carcass disposal guidelines are available at the [NSW Government Avian Influenza website](#).

Decision Framework

- Use this decision tool when planning an agricultural show to determine whether a proposed poultry or captive bird component can proceed. Start at Question 1 and follow the **Yes/No pathway** in order.
- If the outcomes recommend that the poultry or bird sections of an agricultural show should not proceed, this does not necessarily mean the broader agricultural show should not proceed.
- Where the decision tool indicates that further assessment is required, contact NSW DPIRD via animal.biosecurity@dpiird.nsw.gov.au early in your planning and before accepting bird entries.
- As the H5 bird flu situation can change, organisers should check current advice and any applicable emergency restrictions again in the lead-up to the event.
- Exhibitors should be aware of any legal orders in place, as well as the risks of bringing their birds to public events.
- Exhibitors attend the event at their own risk.

Question	If YES	If NO
1. Is the show within an REZ, CEZ, IAEZ area, or have participating birds been housed in one of these areas during the previous 28 days?	The bird component should not proceed.	Go to Question 2.
2. Can the show implement the required biosecurity measures in section 1?	The poultry and/or bird sections of the show or bird	The poultry and/or bird sections of the show or bird

Question	If YES	If NO
	gathering can proceed. Contact DPIRD as required if clarification is needed with respect to biosecurity measures set out in Section 2.	gathering should not proceed. Contact DPIRD if clarification is needed with respect to biosecurity measures set out in Section 2.

*Any biosecurity zones in place can be found on the DPIRD [website](#) or the BioResponse App.

Resources

NSW Government H5 bird flu website: nsw.gov.au/H5birdflu

NSW Health bird flu (avian influenza) website: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/bird-flu/Pages/default.aspx>

Australian Government H5 Bird Flu website: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/campaigns/birdflu>

BioResponse App: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/biosecurity/emergency-management/bioresponse-nsw>

Carcass Disposal Guidelines: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/biosecurity/animal-biosecurity/vet-hub/disposal-of-carcasses>