

For: All County Offices

**Interagency Bio-Security Guidelines**

Approved by: Brad Pfaff, State Executive Director

RAR



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are issuing the attached guidelines for all FSA and NRCS employees to safeguard against possible outbreaks of diseases. As our employees have on-farm contact with large numbers of individual producers, it is critical that all employees familiarize themselves with the basics of this bio-security plan and follow the guidelines to the benefit of all Wisconsin producers.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides bio-security guidelines for all employees of FSA and NRCS in Wisconsin.

**2 Action**

**A County Office Action**

**Effective immediately**, all FSA and NRCS staff who visit livestock operations will follow the bio-security procedures identified in this bulletin. Level 1 is in affect at all times.  
**Level 2** procedure will be the minimum actions necessary by all employees who visit livestock operations, feed mills or other agriculture supply companies during the current avian flu outbreak.

If more stringent procedures become necessary, they will be implemented when directed by Paul J. McGraw, DVM State Veterinarian, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Dr. McGraw will notify the state offices of both agencies when these levels of protection are necessary.

Questions concerning the implementation or procedures should be directed to Pat Murphy, NRCS at 608.662.4422, ext. 258 or Russ Raeder, FSA at 608.662.4422, ext. 111.

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## Wisconsin Bio-Security Measures for On-Site Farm Visits

Biological security measures are becoming standard in many agricultural sectors. These controls, meant to minimize the risk of disease introduction and spread, can vary greatly according to operation and type of site visit. To address concerns from farm owners/producers and with Avian flu, USDA personnel must take steps to ensure a reasonable level of bio-security protection. **Note: Producers/owners may have more stringent bio-security measures, and those should be followed as well.**

### LEVEL 1: (Minimum Bio-security Measures)

- ✓ Avoid livestock areas, pens, barnyards, etc., unless it is necessary to complete the goal of the visit.
- ✓ Avoid direct contact with animal manure on clothing, shoes, vehicle tires, etc.

If contact with livestock areas is likely or unavoidable implement the following procedures:

1. For visits to farm homes where no contact with livestock or their housing occurs, wear disposable plastic boots to and from vehicle. (These should be left on the premises for the producer to discard.)
2. For visits to provide services that will require minimal contact with areas likely to have animal activity or residual manure:

Park vehicle (on pavement/concrete if possible) away from livestock facilities or areas likely retaining residual animal manure.

Wear rubber boots or overshoes or disposable plastic boots (if applicable to activity).

Wash rubber boots or overshoes with solution of Virkon-S disinfectant immediately at vehicle before and after visit.

Consider disposable coveralls (Tyvek) if it is likely that clothing will come in contact with animal manure. (These should be left on the premises for the producer to discard.)

3. For visits to provide services that will require direct exposure to livestock or livestock facilities:

Park vehicle on pavement/concrete (if possible) away from livestock facilities or areas likely retaining residual animal manure.

Wear rubber boots (all-season, shoeless or pullover, minimum folds, outsole with traction for safety) and wash with solution of Virkon-S disinfectant immediately at vehicle before and after visit.

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Wear Tyvek disposable coveralls if it is likely that clothing will come in contact with animal manure. (These should be left on the premises for the producer to discard)

4. For multiple daily visits to livestock operations, follow step 3 above and:

If vehicle was not parked on a paved surface or kept free of contact with animal manure, wash vehicle tires and wheel wells to remove dirt and debris before visiting next site. Employee expenses may be reimbursed.

If disposal of the throw-away boots and coveralls is required, they should be put in a plastic bag and disposed of properly by the employee.

Employees should read and follow the label instructions on the Virkon-S disinfectant for proper use, including respiratory and eye protection

### **Level 2: (Avian Flu Bio Security Measures)**

Due to the ongoing outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), and our strong field presence in rural areas across the state, DATCP emphasizes that it is important to understand how we can all help prevent spread of this disease. USDA employees and partners should take precautions regarding any interactions with all aspects of the poultry industry, especially on farms. Some of the things you can do to protect the health of the poultry industry in addition to the Level 1 precautions are:

1. Do not go to a poultry farm unless it is absolutely necessary. If a farm visit is required, try to limit to only one farm should be visited per day. After driving onto a poultry farm, wash the vehicle both outside and inside. External car washes should include undercarriage and wheel wells. Interior surfaces should be cleaned with Clorox or Lysol disinfectant wipes. Clothes should be washed and shoes or boots cleaned and disinfected. Floor mats should be cleaned and disinfected.
2. Take the same precautions after visiting a plant or feed mill as noted above for visits to farms.
3. Wear clean plastic slip-on boots in order to help prevent the spread of HPAI. These should be worn the entire time that you are on the facility and removed and placed into a garbage bag as you enter vehicle. Spray the bottom of shoes with Lysol disinfectant spray. Disinfect hands with a disinfectant solution.
4. Depending on the work being done, more extensive protocols may be indicated, including personal protective equipment and biosecurity protocols in order to prevent the spread of HPAI.
5. If visiting multiple farms or facilities in one day, schedule any required poultry visits as the last appointment of the day.
6. Never walk on to a farm or into a complex without the owner present.
7. If possible, call ahead to set up an appointment so that you can be escorted on and off the premises.

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8. In addition to these basic biosecurity measures, also follow the owner or company's biosecurity guidance and requirements if they are more stringent than these.
9. When parking your vehicle, park near the end of driveways or back of parking lots.

DATCP and USDA emphasizes that it is our responsibility to be as cautious as possible during these outbreaks. We must show that we understand the need for being responsible for our actions regarding our interactions with the poultry industry. Although we may have the authority and the need to visit any complex, plant, feed mill, or farm, we also have a responsibility to ensure that we are helping to prevent spread of this disease.

### **Supplies:**

All Offices shall maintain a supply of boots, coveralls, buckets, brushes and disinfectant necessary to meet the level 1 and level 2 bio-security requirements

Disposable plastic boots

Rubber Boots (all-season, shoeless or pullover, minimum folds, outsole with traction for safety)

Disposable Coveralls (Tyvek)

Plastic wash bucket

Scrub brush

Virkon-S Disinfectant, Lysol or Clorox

Large water container

### **Contact:**

FSA County Executive Directors who need to purchase supplies should contact Rachel Geiselman, Wisconsin STO, at 608-662-4422 x162.