



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

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MEMORANDUM

TO: MDA Resource Conservation and District Staff

FROM: Hans Schmidt, Assistant Secretary

DATE: June 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Poultry Farm Visit Protocol

Beginning immediately, protocols to return to visiting poultry farms are going into effect for MDA and district staff. Please place close attention to the following:

1. Before entering onto a poultry farm, contact the farm owner/operator for permission as well as a briefing on the farm's biosecurity protocol;
2. Only visit poultry farms for a reason;
3. Only visit poultry farms between flocks;
4. Avoid the poultry production area if possible;
5. Wear PPE around the homestead (buildings) [i.e., disposable foot coverings and any additional items specified by operator];
6. Utilize Lysol to spray feet and pedals when entering and exiting vehicle; and
7. Disinfect vehicle tires at the end of the lane before entering public roads.

As the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". For many MDA and district staff, the last five months have focused totally on fighting High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI). My compliments to staff who assisted in this monumental challenge in bringing this contagious virus under control. The work done on Delmarva to contain HPAI is being recognized across the country as the way it should be done.

It is important that we don't let our guard down and work with our farming community to always be vigilant and practice the best enhanced biosecurity we can.

cc: Secretary Joe Bartenfelder
Deputy Secretary Steve Connelly
Dr. Michael Odian, Md State Veterinarian