

Temporary Sheltering: Poultry

The temporary sheltering of poultry may be a necessary action during an animal health emergency situation. A number of factors must be addressed when setting up and operating these shelters.

Need for Shelter

- Birds displaced by natural disaster, requiring rescue and sheltering until returned to their owner
- Birds quarantined or in-transit and off-loaded due to an infectious disease outbreak

Assessment and Planning

➤ Location and Facility Considerations

- Out of the affected area
- Adequate size
- Protection from elements and predators
- Ventilation and climate control
- Waste disposal location
- Possible locations
 - County fairgrounds, abandoned barns, confinement buildings

➤ Animal Requirements

- Food, water
- Bedding
- Temperature
- Waste management
- Animal identification (e.g., leg band)
- Documentation of owner

➤ Supplies

- Feeders, waterers
- Medical supplies
- Cleaning and disinfection supplies
- Office supplies

➤ Personnel

- Training
 - Incident Command System
 - Poultry handling
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Infection control procedures
- Report all injuries

➤ Biosecurity

- Disinfect all transport vehicles
- Disinfect equipment and footwear
- Vector control: arthropods (e.g., mosquitoes), rodents, and wild birds

➤ Site Security

- Limit unauthorized access
 - Protect animals on-site
 - Prevent pillage of stored supplies
- Keep shelter well lit at night
- Control entry and exit
- Keep a record of all persons/vehicles entering and exiting
- Lock doors at night
- Keep personnel present at all hours

➤ Veterinary Care

- All birds entering or exiting the shelter should be examined by a veterinarian
- Monitor daily for illness, injury, stress, overheating

➤ Isolation of Sick Animals

- Establish a separate area for sick or disease exposed animals
- Animals showing illness should immediately be examined by a veterinarian

➤ Waste Management

- Prompt removal to keep environment clean and prevent disease spread
- Have waste disposal sites identified
- Clean pens daily
- Disinfect equipment after each use
- Have separate equipment for isolation
- Proper carcass disposal of euthanized or dead animals

Additional Resources

- Temporary Housing and Care for Livestock and Poultry – Monograph No. 003, Nebraska Department of Agriculture http://www.agr.state.ne.us/homeland/monograph_003.pdf
- Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures for Poultry Facilities – University of Georgia <http://www.poultry.uga.edu/agrosecurity/section4/cleaning.htm>

Development of this educational material was by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University through funding from the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture MOU-2013-HSEMD-002. June 2013.

