



Avian Influenza March 2022 Update

Monitoring & Response Preparations

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting
March 22, 2022
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Avian Influenza – Timeline

February 25, 2022

- USDA confirmed presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the Atlantic Flyway wild migratory waterfowl including CT wild waterfowl and commercial and backyard poultry flocks along the east coast.

March 2, 2022

- CT DoAg begins to work closely with the USDA and the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on a joint incident response after confirmation of HPAI in a non-commercial backyard flock (155 birds) in New London County.
- Flock was euthanized, then disposed of at Covanta Preston, typically in nylon mesh bags or a 6 mil plastic burrito style wrap.



Health Impacts to Poultry & Humans

- DoAg reports that HPAI does not present an immediate public health concern.
- No human cases of this particular strain of avian influenza (AI) virus have been detected in the United States.
- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recent detections of this strain of influenza in birds in Connecticut and several other states present a low risk to the public.
- Wild waterfowl and shore birds are considered the natural reservoir for the AI virus.
- Two levels – (low pathogenic AI) LPAI and (high pathogenic AI) HPAI depending on genetic features of the virus.
- HPAI is associated with high morbidity rates in poultry, 90-100%.
- No effective treatment in poultry.
- Continuous monitoring and preparation is necessary to prevent entry of the virus into a domestic flock, then measures to contain and eradicate the virus if an outbreak occurs.



Current Planning & Preparation

Use of the State of CT Avian Influenza Monitoring & Response Plan (Revised May 2017):

- The Plan establishes procedures to prevent, prepare, respond to and recover from a potential or actual outbreak or incident.
- Establishes on-going communication and coordination within and between the poultry and egg industries and local, state, and federal agencies.
- To be used within the CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's ("DEMHS") State Response Framework
- In a major outbreak, the USDA will be the lead agency in overseeing the disposal operation and coordinate with the DEMHS Incident Command.



Current Planning & Preparation

DEEP MMCA WEED role:

- Assist and advise DoAg through the provision of specifications for the management of restricted articles (carcasses, eggs, packaging, etc.) in accordance with statutes and regs pertaining to the management of solid waste.
- Provide the necessary authorizations for the management of carcasses and products through off-farm composting and RRFs.
- Work closely with the USDA contracted compost subject matter experts to ensure compliance with approved composting or disposal procedures, in procuring carbon sources for composting, providing data on wood waste facilities in the state. Composting is a viable technology for chicken carcasses composting within 6-8 weeks.
- Coordinating with USDA and DoAg as needed on assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts of composting or disposal, cleaning and disinfecting operations, and vector control.



Current Planning & Preparation

- Poultry farm population = +/-5,000,000 across 6 farms in eastern CT.
- On-farm composting is the preferred disposal method by CT DoAg and the USDA.
- Composting as a Primary Disposal Option
 - In worst case scenario (8,500 CY of dead birds and debris), the poultry farms could on-site compost approximately half the population. No solid waste authorization needed because of on-site generation
 - Three suitable off-site locations near the farms are being considered for any additional required compost area. An Emergency Authorization would be issued to authorize use of these sites.
 - USDA provides compost subject matter experts to oversee the entire compost operation from start to finish. Compost time is approximately 6 to 8 weeks.
 - USDA is currently sourcing wood chips from clean wood waste facilities and saw dust from lumber mills (45,000 CY of carbon material)



Current Planning & Preparation

Primary Disposal Option

- RRF carcass disposal is considered the other primary option for disposal.
- 4 CT RRFs have a Special Waste Disposal Plan. Ag waste/Quarantined Waste is a Special Waste Category. All Special Waste Disposal Plans require that the RRFs restrict the feed ratio for combustion to 8% special waste to 92% MSW at all times when combusting special waste.
- Suitable for small incidents, say 500 to 1000 poultry mortalities.
- RRFs establish requirements for the receipt of the carcasses in super-sacks or large burrito type wraps.
- Time is of the essence for depopulation and disposal in a large outbreak. RRFs can not exclusively handle large outbreaks because the carcasses are wet and have to be parceled in with MSW. This can not be done within a narrow window of time.



Chicken Carcass Test Burn 2016– Wheelabrator Lisbon RRF

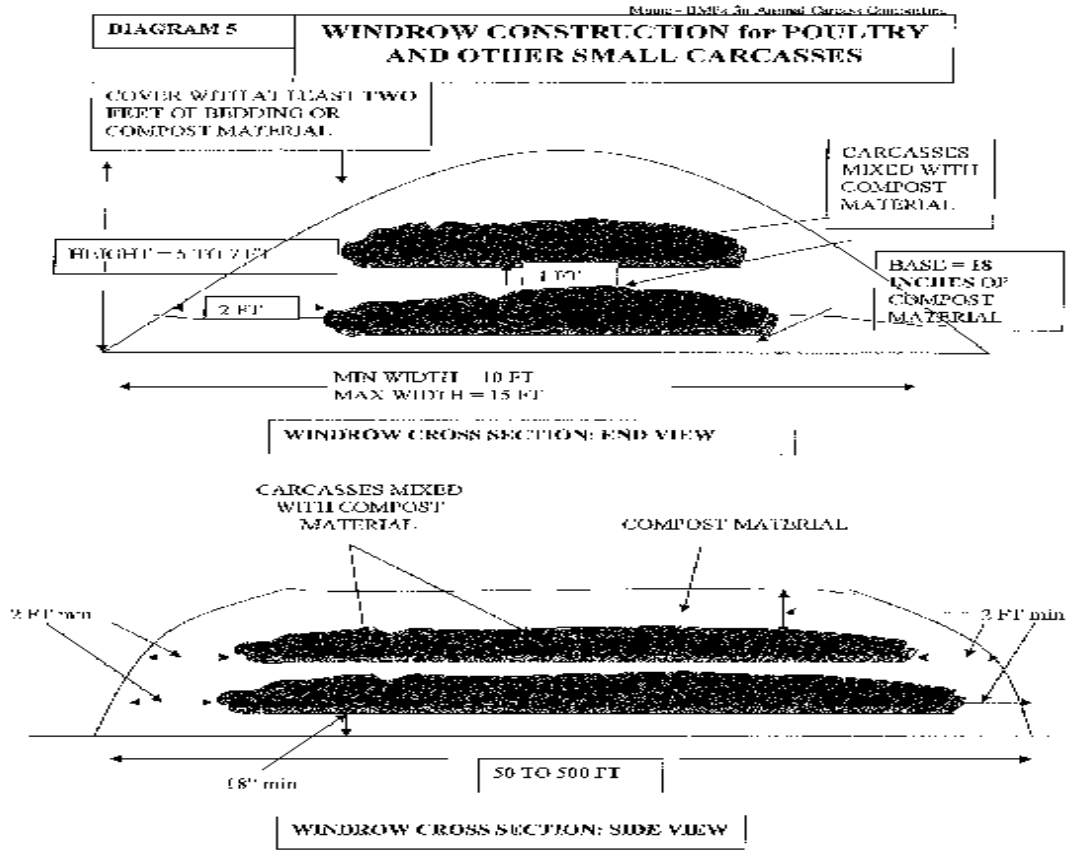


Chicken Carcass Test Burn 2016 – Wheelabrator Lisbon RRF



Off-Site Compost Technique

(Source – Maine Dept of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources)



More Information; Questions?

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DoAg 2022 Avian Influenza Info: [Avian Influenza Information \(ct.gov\)](#)

DEMHS Avian Influenza Monitoring and Response Plan, May 2017:
[EHSP0001-AIMRP2018.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)

DEEP Wildlife Division Avian Influenza Info: [Avian Influenza \(ct.gov\)](#)

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2022 Severe Weather and Hurricane Season

To be posted on DEEP web page:

Municipal Reminder for reporting site locations for staging storm debris

[Disaster Debris Management Preparedness \(ct.gov\)](#)

