January 6, 2016

Dear Stakeholder:

This letter is written in amendment to and supersedes the poultry movement restrictions issued on June 11, 2015.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), commonly referred to as “Bird Flu”, is a highly contagious virus that affects domestic poultry and is believed to be spread by migrating wild birds. Transmission of HPAI is primarily lateral meaning that it spreads from bird to bird through direct or indirect contact. The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) first confirmed the virus in the U.S. in late 2014. Spread of HPAI among commercial and private poultry in 2015 resulted in the largest animal disease event, both in numbers of animals affected and cost, in United States history.

At this time all affected premises have been addressed and are considered HPAI free. Increased disease surveillance throughout the United States has shown a significant decrease in HPAI virus. Due to this decreased threat, the previously imposed poultry movement restrictions are amended as follows:

1. Sale of poultry at licensed livestock markets may resume effective as of the date of this letter. All sales shall be in compliance with KRS 261 and 302 KAR 20:070.

2. Sale of poultry at unlicensed commingling sales venues such as swap meets and flea markets and sales at shows are allowed with the following requirements:

   a. An individual or business conducting unlicensed commingling poultry sales shall obtain a permit from the Kentucky Office of the State Veterinarian no later than 30 days prior to the event. Permits shall be issued at no fee.

   b. The permittee shall be responsible to:
i. Maintain a registry of all participants in the commingling sales event. This registry must include (at a minimum) the name, address from which the animals were moved, and contact information of the participant (consignor).

ii. Maintain records of sales and barters of all animals sold or exchanged at the event. Records must include the name, address, and contact information of the consignor and consignee.

iii. Submit to the Office of the State Veterinarian a report of all participants and animal exchanges no later than 7 days after the event. The “Poultry Record of Sale” form will be provided by the Office of the State Veterinarian and is available on the KY OSV website at http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/livestock-and-poultry.html.

c. KDA personnel shall have access to the venue to conduct inspection of all animals for health and regulatory compliance.

3. Private sale with direct farm to farm movement within Kentucky is allowed in accordance with 302 KAR 20:065.

4. Entry of non-commercial/backyard (NC/BY) poultry into Kentucky for sale is restricted to NPIP Avian Influenza H5/H7 clean facilities only; entry from facilities within a HPAI control zone is banned.

5. Entry of NC/BY poultry from certified NPIP facilities within an HPAI infected state shall meet 302 KAR 20:250 requirements.

6. Entry of NC/BY poultry for private sale or movement shall be in compliance with 302 KAR 20:040.

7. Game bird/waterfowl permit applications shall originate from a NPIP facility that meets the requirements listed in 4 and 5 of this memo. Additionally, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources requires a transportation permit obtained from them.

8. Exhibition events, shows, and fairs will be open to out of state participants. Entry from out of state shall be in compliance with 302 KAR 20:040. All birds presented for exhibition shall be subject to inspection by Kentucky Department of Agriculture personnel.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Stout, DVM
State Veterinarian/Executive Director

RS/bk