

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Restocking Your Poultry Flock

The ultimate goal of an animal disease response is to get you, the producer, back in business. Restocking is your final step, and it must be done carefully. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and State animal health officials need to make sure your property is free from the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus so new birds don't get the disease.

Cleanup and Testing

The HPAI virus must be eliminated from the barn or poultry house, equipment, and all affected areas of the property. Effective methods include, among others: "dry" cleaning and then heat treatment, wet cleaning, or chemical treatments. USDA pays a standard amount for virus elimination costs and will give you a written summary of the available options so you can make the best choice for your facility. You are responsible for handling cleanup work, either on your own or by hiring contractors.

After cleaning and disinfection, your site must stay empty for at least 14 days. During this time, USDA will collect and test environmental samples from your property to confirm the virus has been eliminated.

We'll also review the conditions in the surrounding area to make sure there's no risk of new birds being exposed to the HPAI virus. Some States may have further criteria you must meet, like putting in place a specific biosecurity measure, before you are approved to restock.

Approval To Restock

You will receive written approval to restock when USDA and your State confirm that your property is virus-free and that you've met all other criteria.* This document will include specific requirements you must follow for restocking, testing new birds, and continued biosecurity. You will need to review and sign the agreement.

After approval, it's up to you to decide how and when to restock. When purchasing birds to restock, you must have them tested for HPAI, and they must test negative before you can move them onto your property. It is your responsibility to arrange and pay for this testing. Your case manager can advise you on who to contact for testing.

* Restocking may not be approved if there is an active infection and a current control zone in place near you.



Maintaining Biosecurity

As you move forward, everyone who enters your property must follow the biosecurity measures you have in place. General requirements for all restocked sites are listed below. Your restocking approval document may also include other requirements specific to your facility or local area.

- ▲ Have cleaning and disinfection procedures in place for all movement onto your property and into and between barns.
- ▲ Enforce personnel-specific biosecurity measures.
- ▲ Keep wild birds and rodents out of barn structures.
- ▲ Make sure feed and water are not contaminated by wild birds or their feces.
- ▲ Immediately fix things like standing water or feed spills that may attract wild birds.
- ▲ Stop visits by non-essential personnel.

To complete a biosecurity self-assessment, go to [uspoultry.org/programs/poultry-health/biosecurity](https://www.uspoultry.org/programs/poultry-health/biosecurity) (click on "USDA Biosecurity Self-Assessment"). USDA developed this assessment with States and industry to help commercial poultry owners understand and put in place enhanced biosecurity measures. You can also contact your industry organization for more biosecurity resources.

Questions?

Talk with your case manager or call the nearest USDA Veterinary Services office (www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health; click on "Contact Us").



Learn more about how to protect your flock from HPAI and other diseases:
aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock • cdc.gov/flu/avianflu