

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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Avian Influenza & Outbreak Update ***Most recent news . . .***

State and federal officials are investigating suspected cases of Avian Influenza in poultry in Jackson, Lauderdale and Madison counties in north Alabama. While it is unconfirmed as of this writing, we encourage fanciers to continue to practice biosecurity measures. We also stress that poultry should not be anywhere near your pigeons.

USDA testing will be more conclusive and as information is released, we will update members.

As reported earlier this month, Avian Influenza (H7N9 HPAI) was detected in Lincoln County, Tennessee in birds in a commercial poultry farm.

The facility is under quarantine, along with approximately 30 other poultry farms within a 10 kilometer radius (6.2 miles) of the site. The affected flock was depopulated to stop potential spread of the illness, and officials are testing and monitoring other flocks within the quarantined area. No other flocks have experienced an increase in mortality. - See more at: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/news/48946#sthash.Q2zjVLTf.dpuf>

The USDA has also posted information at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/news/sa_by_date/sa-2017/hpai-tn-update

AS ANY NEW OUTBREAKS ARE NOT CONFIRMED AT THIS TIME, WE ASK MEMBERS NOT TO START PLACING CALLS TO STATE VETERINARIANS. PLEASE CONTACT THE AU

OFFICE WITH QUESTIONS. IF WE DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION YOU REQUIRE, WE WILL GET THE ANSWERS YOU NEED.

AU Bio-Security Recommendations

Basic bio-security measures should always be used. It is more important than ever to make sure you are cleaning your loft regularly, washing hands going in and out of the loft, monitoring or perhaps restricting others from going in and out of your loft and placing new birds in a quarantine section before integrating them with your other birds.

AU Bio-Security Recommendations are found at:

<http://www.pigeon.org/loftcertificationpolicy.htm>

Other Ways You Can Help

The AU also developed the Loft Certification Program many years ago. We have encouraged members to participate in this self-regulating program to illustrate optimum care is provided the birds. It is achieved through a point system and is based on practicing basic bio-security. The [AU Loft Certification Program](#) doesn't cost anything. For more information, please feel free to call the national office (800-755-2778).

For updates from the State Veterinarians, go to:

<http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>