



July 30, 2015

Avian Influenza Update
Most recent news . . .

The AU continues to communicate with the state officials that are dealing with Avian Influenza in their states. We constantly remind them pigeons are not poultry, however, they argue since this is a new strain and the earlier outbreaks were so vast and rapid, they implement restrictions they feel necessary to protect their poultry industry.

Some of the state veterinarians are easing up on restrictions that impact us and some of the vets maintain their earlier position. Below is a summary of the information we have for the states affected. Information is either on their sites or has been gleaned through conversations with the state veterinarians.

[Kansas](#) - The state veterinarian's office has asked that they receive the point of contact for the race release that will take place and a list of birds and owner contact information prior to a race event. If you will send your manifests to the national office, we will coordinate getting the information to the state veterinarian.

[Kentucky](#), [Georgia](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [South Carolina](#) - The state veterinarians have determined that pigeon racing activity may proceed as usual without restriction.

[Missouri](#) - Is not allowing birds in from other states, however, training within state borders is acceptable.

[New York](#), [North Carolina](#) - Has a ban on poultry shows, live bird auctions and

swap meets.

[Michigan](#) [Ohio](#) - Have indicated they will not allow races, shows and events where birds are co-mingled. Individual training in state is allowed.

[Maryland](#) - Will prohibit poultry exhibitions at all fairs and shows after August 25. They are not allowing import or export of poultry and avian species.

[Wisconsin](#) - Has broadened restriction on poultry shows to include all held in conjunction with state and county fairs and all swap meets. Racing is allowed.

[Iowa](#) - Will allow individual training. They will allow birds to be transported through Iowa but not released. Health certificates are required.

If you are interested in listening to the House hearing to be held tomorrow, go to <https://agriculture.house.gov/news/live-audiovideo>.

[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://pigeon.org/biosecurity.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).