

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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Avian Influenza Update – June 8, 2015

Last week we reported that there were several states (OH, IN, MI, WV) that have a ban on fairs, exhibits, or other events where birds are co-mingled with other birds.

We encourage members within those states to wait to determine how the situation will affect young bird racing, futurities, etc.

The state vets we have been in communication with have all indicated the ban should be temporary but are not able to estimate, with any certainty, as to when the ban would be lifted.

It has been brought to our attention that an individual contacted one state vet and was extremely argumentative and confrontational. This impedes our progress and the ability to build a relationship with the very officials that will make decisions, which will affect us going forward.

While we are all very frustrated with the current situation, we have to exercise diplomacy. We also need to work together not against each other.

Please monitor your state websites for updates. We will continue to send out alerts as we receive information or new developments occur.

The link for the United States Department of Agriculture is:

[United States Department of Agriculture](#)

To find your state websites, go to:

[State Department of Agriculture Directory](#)

[State Veterinarian Directory](#)

This is important! If you are aware of someone in the affected areas, please forward or print and share this message.

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.

Several years ago, former board members, Tommy Erskine and Dr. Gary Braden, developed bio-security measures for AU members to follow. Subsequently, this document was reviewed by the USDA. The USDA indicated the bio-security measures presented were a great model for AU members to follow.

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. Applications are found at <http://www.pigeon.org/loftcertificationpolicy.htm> For more information, please feel free to call the national office (800-755-2778).