

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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

Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has now been detected in 34 states across the country. More than 37 million birds have been affected. Positive cases have been detected in commercial and backyard flocks, as well as in wild birds.

State Veterinarians are working with federal officials to determine best response. The state officials ultimately make the decision as to what, if any, movement may be allowed within their state.

Some states are still allowing movement as long as birds are not being transported into or out of state. In many cases, that still accommodates racing if members can race within the state. However, several State Veterinarians have restricted movement and co-mingling of any birds (swap sales, poultry shows, etc.). In some states, this includes bringing pigeons from multiple lofts together for shipping for races even within the state.

We strongly encourage members to monitor their State Veterinarian and Department of Agriculture websites. This is where you will find any restrictions state officials may be imposing at this time.

A list of the State Veterinarians is found at

https://www.usaha.org/upload/Federal%20and%20State%20Health/STATE_ANIMAL_HEALTH_OFFICIALS_3M.pdf

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).