



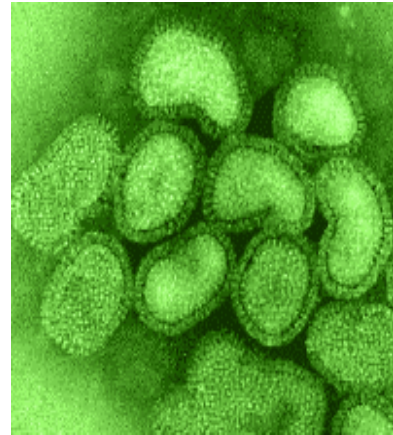
W O G S

Worthwhile Operational Guidelines & Suggestions

BROILER PROCESSING TIMELY INFORMATION – APRIL 2006

Will I get the bird flu?

The spread of bird flu [Avian Influenza (AI)] is a major concern among poultry producers and consumers throughout the world. The particular strain of AI that is causing people to worry is H5N1. There have been and there will be other H5N1 AI strains; however this particular strain has been associated with causing illness and in some cases death in people. Although over 100 people have died, it should be noted that this particular strain of AI is one that primarily affects birds. The individuals that have been infected with AI had intimate contact with infected birds and in several cases had eaten birds that had died from the virus. There are several safeguards in place against the spread of AI in the commercial broiler industry: an AI monitoring program, strict biosecurity, quarantine plan to isolate flocks in areas in which AI has been detected, mass euthanasia of flocks testing positive, and decontamination of production facilities. None of the infected birds should enter the food chain in the US. Simple guidelines that can help reduce the risk of getting AI include:



- Avoiding contact with non-commercial poultry
 - Backyard poultry
 - Fighting chickens
 - Waterfowl and wild birds
- Frequent hand washing after handling poultry
- Changing clothes and shoes after being around poultry
 - Wearing protective smocks and other protective clothing
- Restricting eating or drinking in work areas
- Sanitizing all work areas
- Thoroughly cooking poultry before consumption

General common sense and good hygiene go a long way in reducing the likelihood of becoming infected with AI.



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