Exotic Newcastle Disease in California Poultry

Update – March 4, 2003

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) was diagnosed in backyard poultry flocks in Southern California on October 1, 2002. END is a very serious contagious and often fatal viral disease that affects most species of birds (LINK to END – Information for Bird Owners Fact Sheet). Birds with END may have respiratory, nervous, or gastrointestinal signs, but birds may die without showing any signs. Some bird species can be infected without showing signs of disease and spread the disease to other birds with fatal consequences.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are currently working to eradicate END. The disease is in backyard and commercial poultry in **Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties**. END has also been diagnosed in **Clark County in Nevada** and **La Paz County in Arizona.** Officials are going door-to-door to find sick birds in affected areas and tracing birds into and out of infected flocks.

Exotic Newcastle Disease is not a public health threat and does not affect the safety of poultry or eggs.

A State regional quarantine (LINK State Quarantine Notice) and a Federal regional quarantine (LINK to Federal Quarantine Notice) are in place to prevent the spread of END. The State quarantine affects poultry exhibitions and owners of birds (listed species) within the quarantined area (LINK to State map).

Species and Products Quarantined by CDFA

Poultry species (including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, grouse, partridges, pheasants, quail, guinea fowl, pea fowl, doves, pigeons, swans, and ratites), eggs and associated property, equipment and materials.

The Federal quarantine affects all birds within the eight counties in Southern California (Link to Federal map).

Species and Products Quarantined by USDA

All birds, bird products, END-exposed materials, or means of conveyance.

Owners of any species of birds affected by these quarantines are prohibited from moving birds and bird products out of the quarantined area without a permit from the USDA (LINK to USDA Notice for bird owners).

Any gathering of birds increases the risk of spreading disease. It is strongly recommended that no birds of any species be gathered, moved into or moved within the quarantined area. This quarantine will remain in effect until Exotic Newcastle Disease has been eradicated from California. Anyone who violates the quarantine is civilly liable in an amount not to exceed $25,000.

- Over 1,317 people are working in Southern California to eradicate this disease.
- 12,207 premises have been quarantined (i.e., birds are not allowed to leave these premises); investigations are ongoing.
- 2,249 of these premises contained birds infected with or exposed to END; all birds in these flocks have been or will be humanely destroyed. All affected premises are being cleaned and disinfected after the birds have been removed.
- 17 of these are commercial poultry facilities.
- 3,114,908 birds have been humanely destroyed
- Owners are being compensated at “fair market value” for birds that are destroyed.
- Owners will be allowed to restock birds after there is no risk of them being reinfected with END.

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices

Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500

www.cdfa.ca.gov

United States Department of Agriculture

916-857-6170 or 877-741-3690

Call 1-800-491-1899 for more information and to report suspicious cases

Educational materials are also available in Spanish and other languages as needed

Visit our Web Site at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Newcastle_info.htm