Exotic Newcastle Disease in California Poultry

Update – April 21, 2003

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) was diagnosed in backyard poultry flocks in Southern California on October 1, 2002, and in commercial poultry on December 21, 2003. END is a very serious contagious and often fatal viral disease that affects most species of birds (LINK - END Fact Sheet). Birds with END may have respiratory, nervous, or gastrointestinal signs, or 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 has been found 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, Nevada** and **La Paz County, Arizona.** END has been confirmed in backyard fowl near **El Paso, Texas**. 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.

The EXHIBITION of poultry is prohibited throughout California (LINK - Quarantine Notice). Immature poultry may be sold after completing a compliance agreement with CDFA assuring that the sale does not contribute to the spread of END.

*For the purposes of the **state** quarantine, poultry species include: chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, partridges, pheasants, quail, guinea fowl, pea fowl (peacocks), doves, pigeons, grouse, swans, and ratites (emus. ostriches. rheas. etc.).*

*An **exhibition** of poultry is any event, gathering or activity where live poultry from various sources are brought together for public display, competitive or non-competitive showing, inspection, trade, or sale, at venues that include, but are not limited to, auctions, bird shows, fair exhibits, feed stores, hardware stores, pet marts, pet stores, petting zoos, swap meets, and individual residences*.

Owners of all birds in the eight counties of Southern California are prohibited from EXHIBITING birds or MOVING birds and bird products out of that area without a permit from the USDA (LINK - USDA Notice for bird owners).

Any gathering of birds increases the risk of spreading disease. No birds of any species should be gathered, moved into or moved within Southern California.

*Under the **Federal** quarantine:*
No birds, bird products, and END-exposed materials can be moved out of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Imperial counties.

Quarantines will remain in effect until END has been eradicated from California. Anyone who violates the quarantine is civilly liable in an amount not to exceed $25,000.

- Over 1,106 people are working in California to eradicate this disease.
- 16,342 premises have been quarantined (birds are not allowed to leave these premises); investigations are ongoing.
- 2,420 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.
- 22 of these are commercial poultry facilities.
- 3,460,028 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.

END Task Force Offices

South Coast:	Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Orange, San Diego	800-491-1899
Inland Desert:	Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial	800-491-1899
	Permits and compliance agreements	866-214-7079
Central California:	All other counties	209-558-5637

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

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