



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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MEDIA ADVISORY ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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(Phoenix) The Arizona Department of Agriculture has issued an Administrative Order implementing procedures to prevent the introduction of Exotic Newcastle Disease into Arizona. By Administrative Order and pursuant to Arizona law, the Arizona Department of Agriculture has stopped the following items from coming into this State from areas in California under quarantine for this disease: live or dead birds of all types, including poultry, poultry products and other materials that are capable of transmitting the disease.

The Administrative Order requires that no equipment used for the processing of eggs or the housing, feeding or watering of birds from the quarantined areas may be moved into Arizona unless accompanied by an official certificate of cleaning and disinfection. All commercial vehicles that are transporting such items are now required to stop at an Arizona Port-of-Entry inspection station and provide the agriculture inspector with certified proof of cleaning and disinfection according to USDA protocols.

The Order also requires that every vehicle transporting birds must stop at an Arizona Port-of-Entry inspection station and provide the agriculture inspector with an original health certificate issued by an accredited veterinarian showing the bird(s) are healthy and did not originate from the quarantined area.

The current outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease, first confirmed in backyard poultry flocks in southern California in October 2002, was recently detected in southern California commercial poultry operations. As part of their jointly conducted eradication campaign, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture have imposed a quarantine on all of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernadino, Ventura, and Imperial Counties thus halting the interstate movement of birds, including poultry, and poultry products from these areas.

While California's door-to-door surveillance and testing, along with interviews, has not established definitive disease transmission links to other States, it is known that Arizona has bird owners who pass freely to and from the quarantined California areas.

According to Arizona State Veterinarian Dr. Rick Willer, Exotic Newcastle Disease can affect any species of birds and there is no vaccine for this virulent form of the disease.

Dr. Willer emphasizes that while Newcastle Disease can affect people, it does not pose a serious risk to human health. The disease in humans is usually limited to conjunctivitis, a mild inflammation of the tissues surrounding the eye and, when seen, occurs in persons associated with infected birds.

It should be noted that poultry products in the Arizona marketplace, including eggs and chicken, continue to be safe to consume.

Persons seeking additional information about the disease may contact the Arizona Department of Agriculture Newcastle Disease information line at (888) 742-5334 or visit their website at www.agriculture.state.az.us.

Exotic Newcastle Disease FAQ's - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/fsend.html>