



BROILER TIP . . .

Orange/Red Condition: What does it mean for Poultry Operations?

On December 21st, 2003 the U.S. moved to a national terror threat level of “HIGH” or Condition Orange. This condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. In general this directs agencies that monitor gateways into the U.S. to increase the surveillance level. Agrosecurity is important to our state and country and should not be overlooked.

There are five levels in the Homeland Security Advisory System: green, blue, yellow, orange and red. Green is the low condition and red is the severe condition. Although the conditions Green through Red apply to policing and security agencies, APHIS has released some guidelines for animal operations to follow when the threat level is Orange or Red. It is important to notice that the steps outlined by APHIS are very similar to the biosecurity principles that our industry already uses to varying degrees. Integrator employees and growers should be aware that biosecurity steps may not only protect broiler flocks from disease but will also help to prevent the poultry industry from becoming a target for terrorists.



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Below are the APHIS recommended actions for Animal and Poultry Operations in response to Orange and Red threat warnings against a general terrorism agent:

CONDITION (ORANGE) HIGH RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACK

Communication

- C Review clinical signs of foreign animal diseases (FAD's) with all employees (examples include Avian Influenza, Exotic Newcastle Disease, etc...)
- C Contact your private veterinarian, extension agent, or local industry organizations for updates on situations, information, or actions needed.

Physical Security

- C Post signs outlining security procedures in place at your operation
- C Ensure that all gates and doors are locked to restrict traffic in and out of your buildings as much as possible.
- C If possible, move your animals away from pastures located along major roads and away from areas where they cannot be adequately monitored.

Biosecurity

- C Consider canceling participation in shows, fairs, and exhibits
- C If you must visit farms, wear disposable boots or rubber boots that can be disinfected
- C Avoid livestock and poultry for at least 10 days after visiting premises with sick livestock or poultry, or after returning from a foreign country
- C Wash clothing and footwear using an APHIS-approved disinfectant after contact with sick livestock or poultry
- C Clean nostrils and fingernails and wash hair thoroughly after contact with sick livestock or poultry
- C After visiting foreign farms, dispose of clothing, shoes, equipment, cameras, and other items that are difficult or impossible to disinfect
- C Use shower-in, shower-out facilities, if possible.
- C Account for the recent movements and health history of all newly introduced animals at their premises of origin through accurate recordkeeping
- C Account for the recent history of potentially contaminated equipment and animal transport vehicles, including renderers' trucks, that may be used to haul carcasses away from your premises
- C Purchase feed only from suppliers who have a quality assurance program for the safe manufacturing,

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

- storage, and delivery of their products
- C If you suspect that water has been contaminated, test it and establish its safety before giving it to your animals
- C Control all movement of people, vehicles, and equipment on and off your property to reduce the risk of disease transmission.....this may include measures such as locking unguarded entrances, repairing boundary fences, and enforcing strict biosecurity measures for people, vehicles, and equipment at all times
- C Do not contaminate your person, clothing, or equipment at foreign fairs, zoos, or other livestock or poultry events
- C Do not wear items such as jewelry, watches, glasses, or hairpieces when working around animals, since these items cannot be successfully disinfected
- C Do not bring onto your property any meat or animal products from foreign countries, or equipment that has been used around foreign or sick livestock or poultry
- C Do not use feed equipment to handle manure

Monitor

- C Increase the number of times per day that your livestock are observed
- C Report sick animals or unexpected death losses to your veterinarian
- C Watch for and report any observations of sick or dead birds, fish, or insects
- C Monitor feed and chemical storage areas for tampering or unauthorized entrance
- C Watch for unusual packages or containers, especially those found in unlikely or sensitive areas
- C Verify the source of all incoming animals, feed, supplements, equipment and individuals prior to moving them into the animal area
- C Scrutinize the actions of personnel on your farm, the entry of unnecessary personnel, and deviations from normal operations

Prepare

- C Conduct an operation vulnerability assessment.....look at your operation, determine possible areas of vulnerability, and correct them
- C Review clinical signs of FAD's and discuss with all employees
- C Review reporting systems and phone numbers in case of a possible FAD or other emergency – these numbers include those of your State Veterinarian, Federal Area Veterinarian in Charge, local law enforcement, and State and Federal 1-800 hotlines

CONDITION (RED) SEVERE RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACK.

ENGAGE IN THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES AND, IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING ARE RECOMMENDED:

Communication

- C Frequently check with your veterinarian, extension agent, or livestock organizations for information on possible specific threats and recommended actions.

Physical Security

- C Consider security patrols for your property, if indicated
- C Do not leave trucks or vehicles loaded with livestock or feed unattended at truck stops
- C Do not allow visitors or unknown persons onto your property
- C Post signs at the entrances to your operation indicating that the operation is under increased surveillance and that no visitors can enter without permission

Biosecurity

- C Cancel attendance at all fairs, shows, and exhibits
- C Minimize local and interstate movement of animals and conveyances until the threat passes
- C Avoid visiting other farms or areas where animals are gathered

Monitor

- C Frequently monitor animals, crops, feedstuffs, and chemicals used on your operation
- C Contact your veterinarian for a diagnosis on sick or dead animals, even if you normally would not do so

Prepare

- C Prepare contingency plans in case of attack, quarantines, or stop movement requirements

The poultry industry in some states has experienced disease situations over the last few years that have cost millions of dollars in lost revenue and birds. In practicing these steps in addition to current biosecurity protocols, people working in the poultry industry can work together to ensure that the poultry industry continues to meet consumer demands and provide a nutritional product for consumption.



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“Your local County Extension Agent is a source of more information on this subject.”