

*This release posted on behalf of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health, and K-State Research and Extension.*

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## **Movement restrictions for poultry events, exhibitions and sales issued in Kansas**

MANHATTAN, Kansas – In an effort to protect the Kansas poultry industry and to promote stronger biosecurity practices throughout the state, Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health has issued a stop movement order, signed by Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey, targeting Kansas poultry and live birds, effectively cancelling all poultry-related shows and events through calendar year 2015. This includes all types of poultry activities where birds from different flocks are co-mingled.

This will include, but is not limited to: regional and county fairs, festivals, the Kansas State Fair, swap meets, exotic sales and live bird auctions. This measure is being implemented in an effort to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza (HPAI). Kansas experienced a positive case of HPAI in Leavenworth County in 2015.

This decision was made after careful consideration and consultation with the K-State Research and Extension, Kansas 4-H, Kansas State Fair representatives and other poultry industry officials. Dr. Justin Smith, Deputy Animal Health Commissioner, made the announcement.

“The decision to issue movement restrictions regarding poultry and bird events has been made in an effort to protect the poultry industry in Kansas and the economic contribution that the industry makes to our agricultural economy. It is a difficult decision, as I know youth and adults would soon be exhibiting their projects at local fairs,” said Smith. “This decision was not made lightly, but it is necessary we do everything possible to protect the Kansas poultry flock.”

“While this is disheartening for our 4-H families, this is a matter of biosecurity, and the need to protect our commercial and backyard flocks is pre-eminent. To the best of my knowledge, all other North Central region states have already cancelled their shows,” said Gregg Hadley, PhD., Assistant Director Agriculture, Natural Resources and Community Development, K-State Research and Extension.

K-State Research and Extension and Kansas 4-H, along with the Kansas State Fair, are working to identify options for youth enrolled in poultry projects to showcase their learning and participate in fairs in ways other than having their birds present.

Exhibition at the county fair (including the Kingman County & 4-H Fair) is not required for project completion, Hadley said. Therefore, this decision has nothing to do with a 4-H member being able to complete their poultry project; rather, it is a concern for animal health.

Since the ultimate goal of any 4-H project is the development and education of the 4-H member, alternative educational poultry project activities in place of exhibiting live poultry can be considered. For example, 4-H poultry members could create educational poster or display on poultry breeds, health or

management. Possibly members could develop a video presentation that loops at the local fair to educate the public about poultry.

It is important that all poultry producers continue to monitor their flocks for symptoms of the virus, and notify KDA immediately if they suspect any problems. All bird owners, whether commercial producers or backyard enthusiasts, should prevent contact between their birds and other birds including wild fowl. If you see sickness in birds, please contact KDA Division of Animal Health at (785) 564-6601 or email [HPAI@kda.ks.gov](mailto:HPAI@kda.ks.gov). Additional information about HPAI can be found online at [www.agriculture.ks.gov/avianinfluenza](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/avianinfluenza).