



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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To all poultry owners

RE: AVIAN INFLUENZA – OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The Zimbabwean Veterinary Services recently reported an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza in chickens in Zimbabwe which affected one of their commercial farms. Below are the basic measures that you need to observe in order to prevent introduction into your flock and to prevent its spread, should the unfortunate happen and the disease is detected in South Africa.

Biosecurity

The main aim is to prevent attracting wild birds to your farm and thus having contact with your chickens. With chickens, this is easily achieved by housing them and by making sure wild birds do not come into the chicken house. For backyard and free roaming chickens, place their feed and water in the house and keep the chickens away from any open water sources where they might have contact with wild birds. The Ostrich industry should be vigilant with the measures as in the Procedural Notice for keeping ostriches

Do not allow people who have been on other poultry farms in the past 48/72 hours on your farm. Make sure that access of all people and vehicles onto your chicken farm is controlled and that proper disinfection procedures are in place at the entrance to the farm.

Surveillance

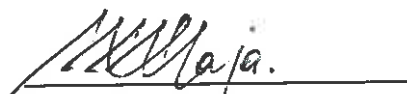
The H5N8 Avian influenza virus that has been diagnosed in Zimbabwe is highly pathogenic, which means that it can kill birds and spreads fast. Please help us to detect any incursion as early as possible by notifying the local State Vet office, or Extension Officer when a number of sick or dead birds are observed. The State Veterinarian should visit the farm, investigate the incident and collect samples from the birds to rule out disease.

The Department will pay for all Avian influenza tests on samples that are sent to the ARC-OVR by the State Veterinarians.

Control of Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza

Should Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza be confirmed, Government Veterinary Services will take charge of the situation and will implement control measures to eradicate or control the disease. Vaccination against Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza is prohibited in the country.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Maja', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr Mpho Maja
DIRECTOR: ANIMAL HEALTH

Date: 2017-06-13