



## Basic Biosecurity for All Service Providers to Poultry Farms

7KH GLVH DVH WKUHDW WR \*HRUJLD ¶V is a group of experts developed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and Commodities in response to the Avian Influenza outbreak in the Midwest and the very real possibility that it could arrive in Georgia with migratory waterfowl. While visitors are discouraged from going on poultry farms, it is

- x In situations where a service provider enters a farm to provide service or repairs not in the immediate vicinity of the poultry house, they should still follow the bio-security instructions provided by the grower or signage posted at the entry of the farm. In these cases, spraying footwear with Lysol would be a good extra precaution to take.
- x If avian influenza is discovered in Georgia, control zones will be established at a 6 mile radius of the infected farm. Service providers will be kept informed about the zones and status of the control efforts. In this scenario, it might be necessary to have a higher level of security measures in place. Options include having pump disinfectant sprayers on service vehicles operating in these areas in addition to Lysol for footwear and hand sanitizer. Another good option is to make contact with the grower before entering the farm so that the vehicle can be met at the farm entrance. This is especially important if the service vehicle is traveling from one poultry farm directly to another.
- x , Q G L Y L G X D O V Z K R F R P H L Q W R F R Q W D F W Z L W K <sup>3</sup> E D F N \ D U G lives pose a higher risk to commercial poultry operations. Employees who provide services in the immediate area of a poultry house should take precautions to reduce the risk of spreading avian diseases if they come into contact with backyard birds, pet birds or fowl (including ducks and geese) at gatherings such as flea markets and swap meets. Ideally, clothing and footwear worn at these outside activities would not be worn on the job. If the same footwear is worn on the job, then it is critical that the shoes/boots be disinfected thoroughly using a Lysol spray or other product effective at killing influenza viruses and that hand sanitizer be used prior to providing any service on the farm. Individuals who have contact with backyard chickens or other birds during their daily lives should not provide services inside a chicken house regardless of the biosecurity measures taken.
- x Individuals providing services on poultry farms who hunt birds should not wear any items used while hunting to work on these farms and should not use the work vehicle for bird hunting. In the case of inadvertent contact with wild or domestic birds, service providers who must enter poultry houses should shower and change all clothing prior to providing service on a poultry farm.
- x Companies that provide services on poultry farms should communicate with their employees about the increased risk of spreading avian diseases to commercial farms if they have contact with backyard chickens and other birds outside of work. If an employee reports that they have such contact with birds outside of work, it would be ideal if work schedules could be arranged to have other employees handle poultry farm service work. If this is not possible, service providers are encouraged to strictly follow the bio-security recommendations outlined above.