

## DISCARDING PPE, ANIMAL CARCASSES AND OTHER ANIMAL PARTS

The way to dispose of PPE, tools and animal carcasses and parts may be different in each situation or location. Local officials will likely decide on how best to dispose of dead birds and other items that have come in contact with blood or other animal parts.

### If you are BURYING carcasses, used PPE and other contaminated tools, keep the following points in mind<sup>3</sup>:

- The burial hole should be located away from human and animal living areas and water (wells, lakes, ponds, rivers).
- The burial hole should be large enough to fit all of the dead birds, and at least 0.6 meters (2 feet) of soil on top of the carcasses.
- After adding the carcasses to the burial pit, cover them with 40 cm of soil, and then with a solid layer of slaked lime before filling the hole. This will help keep animals (such as dogs, cats and pigs) from digging up the dead chickens and other animal parts. Quicklime should not be placed directly on carcasses because it slows, and may prevent, decomposition.



### If you are BURNING carcasses, used PPE and other contaminated tools, keep the following points in mind<sup>4</sup>:

- Carcasses may be burned on a stack with flammable liquid. Arrange fuel and carcasses so that enough air can enter the pile from below and achieve the hottest fire possible in the shortest period of time.
- After finishing piling the carcasses, pour diesel or heating oil (not petrol) on the fire bed and create place rags soaked in kerosene every 10 meters along the length of the fire bed.
- Start the fire by walking into the wind and lighting the ignition points along the way.
- Make sure someone is watching the fire at all times to make sure that enough fuel is used, and that any carcasses or animal parts that fall off the fire are replaced again.
- The ashes can be buried as described in the section above.



### Always remember to monitor your health for at least 7 days after culling.

Tell your local health care provider if you develop any of these symptoms:

- Fever over 38°C
- Sore throat or cough
- Respiratory distress or failure
- Tell them that you have been involved in poultry culling



# BIRD CULLING FOR AVIAN (BIRD) INFLUENZA CONTAINMENT

## A Guide for Poultry Culling Supervisors



When there is an outbreak of avian influenza, or bird flu, there are many steps that can be taken to control the spread of the virus. One way is to cull infected birds, birds that are in close contact with infected birds, and birds that are suspected to be infected.

If you are part of a culling activity, here are some important things you should know.

<sup>3,4</sup> V. Martin, A. Forman, J. Lubroth, "Preparing for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. A Manual for Countries at Risk," 16 February 2006.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN CULLING

Chickens/poultry should be culled based on recommendations from local authorities.

Here are some general guidelines to follow when slaughtering chickens.<sup>1</sup>

1. Prepare the area where the culling will take place - regardless of whether it is a village or one coop. Clear the area of all other animals and people, especially children. Only the people involved in the culling activity should be in that area.
2. Make sure to correctly wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) – please refer to *How to Wear Personal Protective Equipment, How to Remove Personal Protective Equipment*.
3. Culling should be humane and should avoid bloodshed, if possible, since blood is a major source of infection. For example, avoid cutting the neck, beheading or any other method that creates a lot of blood. Follow culling instructions given to you by local authorities.
4. For small numbers of birds that are small-to-medium size, the preferred method is dislocation of the neck using gloved hands. You can also dislocate the neck using burdizzos, bone cutters or secateurs. Burdizzos are most useful when large numbers of poultry with strong necks (such as geese and ducks) are destroyed.
5. For large numbers of birds (such as in commercial poultry businesses) the preferred method is gassing with carbon dioxide. This method involves lining large garbage waste bins (skips) with plastic sheeting that also forms a canopy over the top of the bin. Carbon dioxide is pumped into the bottom of the gas bins through a 2.5 cm garden hose fitted to the top of the cylinders. The carbon dioxide should be released in 30-45 second bursts. Do not release the gas too quickly, or the bottles will freeze when they become about half empty. The concentration of carbon dioxide must be in the range of 60-70% in the gas bin, with the lid tightly closed for 1-2 minutes to properly stun and kill the birds.



Usually, half a 45 kg cylinder of carbon dioxide is needed for the three cubic meter gas bins, and three or more cylinders are needed for the 20 cubic meter gas bins. Carbon dioxide should be added so that all birds are dead before others are placed on top of them. The gas bins should be three quarters (75%) filled with birds, sealed, and transported to the disposal site. Make sure that no bird is still alive when dropped into the burial pit. If this happens, birds must be immediately caught and humanely killed.

Usually, infected birds are slaughtered first, followed by birds in contact with infected birds, and then the remaining birds in the flock.

## AFTER CULLING IS COMPLETED

There are several important steps to take after culling is completed. Before moving on to the next culling location, it is important to:

Follow any local directions for clean up and disinfection of the culling area, equipment and clothing.



Disinfect any personal protective equipment (PPE) and tools that are reusable.



Discard personal protective equipment (PPE) – such as gloves, masks, and aprons – that are disposable and make sure they are properly burned or buried as soon as possible.



## CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

After culling operations, it is very important to properly clean and disinfect the culling area. Follow instructions from local authorities on how to disinfect cages, equipment or other parts of the farmyard, or to sweep up manure and other poultry waste. Make sure you are still wearing your personal protective equipment when cleaning and disinfecting the culling areas.

Place local information here. Place local information here.

Because the avian (bird) influenza virus survives best in a moist and soiled environment, it is important to thoroughly clean and disinfect objects that have been soiled by blood, feathers or any other poultry fluids, wastes or other animal parts.

Avian (bird) influenza also survives well in water, so washing items with only water (and no soap or disinfectant) may spread the virus.

The chart below lists recommended cleaning methods and disinfectants.<sup>2</sup> If you do not have access to disinfectants or chemical cleaners, you should at least clean everything with soap and clean water:

Personal protective equipment – disposable	Burn or bury
Personal protective equipment - reusable	Soaps and disinfectants, bleach and other oxidizing agents, alkalis
Dead birds/Carcasses	Burn or bury; some composting methods are acceptable for birds.
Animal housing/equipment/cages	Soaps and disinfectants, bleach and other oxidizing agents, alkalis
Humans	Soaps and disinfectants
Water tanks	Disinfect if possible, and drain to meadow/pasture
Ponds	Disinfect if possible, and drain to meadow/pasture
Feed	Burn or bury
Effluent, manure	Burn or bury, acids and/or alkalis, composting
Human housing	Soap and disinfectants, bleach and other oxidizing agents
Machinery, vehicles	Soap and disinfectants, alkalis
Clothing	Soaps and disinfectants, bleach and other oxidizing agents, alkalis
Poultry paths	Caustic soda, quicklime

### Always remember to

WASH YOUR HANDS with soap and water, detergent or a chemical cleaner after you finish cleaning, remove your gloves, or after touching anything - such as shoes, pants, shirt or any farm equipment – that has come in contact with the birds, their blood or saliva, feathers, or feces.



<sup>1</sup> V. Martin, A. Forman, J. Lubroth, "Preparing for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. A Manual for Countries at Risk," 16 February 2006.

<sup>2</sup> World Animal Health Organization, OIE Avian Influenza Disease Card, 2006.