

## Guidance Notes on Avian Influenza

Note : Information in this leaflet is correct at time of publication and is intended for guidance only. Please refer to the OF&G Control Manual for full details of legislation and interpretation and to the OF&G Technical Newsletters, for updates. Organic requirements are in addition to statutory legislation.

The following Questions and Answers and the attached information are provided to assist all poultry producers.

**Q. What should poultry producers do to reduce the risks?**

A. We have attached some leaflets from Defra that provide advice on assessing the risks and maintaining biosecurity. Following these measures will help to keep the risk to a minimum.

**Q. What should I do if I suspect that my poultry are infected with Avian Influenza?**

A. Avian Influenza is a notifiable disease therefore if you have reason to believe that your birds have contracted the disease you must report this to the State Veterinary Service (SVS). Your vet can do this for you or provide you with the SVS contact details.

**Q. Where can I get more information about Avian Influenza?**

A. The Defra website has a lot of information on Avian Influenza. Go to [www.defra.gov.uk/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/) and then select 'Avian Influenza' from the Quicklinks on the right hand side of the page. You can also access this information from the OF&G website. In addition and for those of you without access to the Internet we have enclosed a number of documents from the Defra website that give more information. As the situation is developing rapidly we suggest that you check the Defra website regularly for any developments.

**Q. Should organic poultry producers be shutting their birds in now?**

A. No. Only shut birds in if an official order is made to do so.

**Q. What will happen to the status of organic eggs and poultry meat if an order is given to shut birds in?**

A. The situation is still unclear but we have been told that under the current EC Regulations, if free-range birds have to be housed free range / organic eggs would maintain their status under the EU Marketing Regs but that birds for poultry meat would not, as there is no derogation for poultry meat to retain free-range / organic status in such circumstances. We have asked Defra to clarify this and are awaiting a response.

**Q. What disinfectants can I use at this stage?**

A. For disinfecting vehicles and personnel clothing, boots etc. any Defra approved disinfectant can be used.  
For disinfecting livestock buildings, installations and equipment only disinfectants containing materials listed at section 8.8.17 in the OF&G Control Manual can be used.

**Please contact your Certification Officer if you have any questions. Contact details are given below.**

**Organic Farmers & Growers, Elim Centre, Lancaster Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 3LE**

**Tel: 0845 330 5122**

**Fax: 0845 330 5123**

**(Local Call Rates)**

**or by e-mail to: [info@organicfarmers.org.uk](mailto:info@organicfarmers.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.organicfarmers.org.uk](http://www.organicfarmers.org.uk)**