



# Producer Information Sheet

## Emergency Response Procedures—Cleaning and Disinfection

As part of its mission to protect American agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) responds to serious diseases if they are found in the U.S. livestock and poultry populations. Highly contagious diseases such as avian influenza, classical swine fever, Newcastle disease, and foot-and-mouth disease would cause significant losses and damage if they became established in our country's animal populations. APHIS responds quickly and decisively to any U.S. detections of these diseases.

Federal law gives APHIS the authority to depopulate affected herds and flocks to contain or stop the spread of the disease. After depopulation occurs and disposal of all carcasses is complete, the cleaning and disinfection process begins.

### Cleaning and Disinfection

First, all organic material (e.g., soil, manure, bedding, feed) is removed using shovels, brooms, and brushes during the "dry cleaning" phase. These items will be disposed of per Federal, State, and local regulations. Any item that cannot be cleaned safely should be appraised and disposed of at this point.

Next, all areas and items are washed thoroughly with detergent to remove any oil, grease, or other films that could interfere with the use of disinfectant. All surfaces need to be rinsed and allowed to dry. After drying, an appropriate U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-licensed disinfectant is applied and allowed to remain wet on the surfaces for the label-specified contact time. After the contact time, surfaces are rinsed again and allowed to air dry.

It is absolutely essential to do a thorough cleaning and disinfection. These processes help eliminate any remaining disease agents in the animal housing area.

### Testing

After cleaning and disinfection, environmental samples are collected and tested to confirm that the virus is no longer present. Animal health officials will determine the number and frequency of samples needed and collect them accordingly. These samples will be tested at either the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, IA, or a designated National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratory. Test results typically take 3–8 days to receive.

Before being released from quarantine, premises must remain empty for a minimum amount of time (typically 3–4 weeks) after cleaning and disinfection. The actual number

of days will depend on the disease agent and the method of disposal used. Please discuss the exact timeline with the animal health officials responding on your farm.

After cleaning and disinfection, testing, and the appropriate downtime, the premises can be released by Federal and State officials to be restocked.

### **Producer Responsibilities**

Producers should talk to animal health officials about their level of involvement and how they can work together with responders. Anyone who works on the farm during these processes will need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment and follow strict biosecurity procedures, as outlined by the response team and/or the flock plan signed by the producer.

### **For More Information**

If you have any questions about the cleaning and disinfection processes, talk with the State or Federal animal health officials responding to the disease event in your area.