Morbidity and Mortality

**Signs of Avian Influenza**

Poultry flocks infected with Avian Influenza (AI) may show a variety of clinical signs, ranging from appearing normal if infected with Low Pathogenicity AI, to 100% mortality if infected with High Pathogenicity AI.

**Recordkeeping and Reporting**

Keeping records of morbidity and mortality on the operation will assist with recognition of a possible disease event on the site. You may be responsible for completing logs, or you may need to provide information to individuals assisting with disease tracking.

The operation’s site-specific plan should include information on the rates that constitute elevated morbidity and mortality.

**Mortality**

Dead birds should be collected daily, stored, and disposed of in a manner that does not attract wild birds, rodents, and other animals and minimizes the potential for cross-contamination from other facilities or between premises.

Procedures for seeking, removing, disposing, and recording mortalities should be included in the site’s biosecurity plan, and mortality removal pathways should be drawn on the site map. In all cases, you must follow the applicable Biosecure Entry Procedures for the site.

**Removal**

- Seek and remove dead birds from house/barn daily
- Dead birds may be initially stored in a closed, leak-proof collection container within the Line of Separation (LOS), and mortalities removed from house/barn at the end of the shift

**Disposal**

- For off-site disposal, rendering trucks/other vehicles hauling dead animals must NOT cross the Perimeter Buffer Area (PBA)
  - Containers may straddle the PBA for access of both on-site and off-site vehicles until dead birds are taken to permanent disposal site
- Prevent rodents and other scavengers from accessing the disposal site
- Refer to the site’s biosecurity plan for special procedures for larger than expected numbers of mortalities, as procedures may vary