

**Guidance to Conservation Technicians
Who Pursue Outdoor Recreation in Habitats for
Waterfowl, Game Birds and other Natural Areas.**

(9-11-15 PA SCC)

Many conservation technicians enjoy hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation that may bring them into direct contact with waterfowl, game birds, or the habitats of these animals. As you may be aware, waterfowl, game birds and other wildlife species can often be infected with avian influenza (AI) virus and transmit the disease.

It is very important for conservation technicians that enjoy hunting and other outdoor pursuits, and are also required as a part of their employment related duties to work on farm premises that have poultry, to be extra careful in adopting biosecurity practices that consider and manages both of these sources of potential exposures.

First and foremost, you must adhere to all biosecurity measures required by your employer, and all biosecurity measures posted and required by the poultry facility that you are entering as a part of your job duties.

In addition to these employer and premise based biosecurity requirements, anyone that hunts or participates in outdoor activities that bring them into direct or indirect contact with waterfowl, game bird or the habitats of these animals should also:

- avoid entering a poultry premises for at least 72 hours after hunting or walking in waterfowl or gamebird areas;
- always shower between any exposure to wildlife or wildlife habitat and any entrance onto a poultry facility;
- always wear clean clothing onto a poultry premises
- never wear hunting or walking shoes that were in waterfowl or other game bird areas onto a poultry premises (even under plastic booties, unless they have been cleaned and disinfected);
- never wear hunting clothes (coats, hats, shoes, boots, gloves, coveralls, shirts, pants, waders, gaiters, etc.) on a poultry farm.
- never take hunting or other outdoor gear (knives, saws, GPSs, cameras, backpacks, water bottles, lunch boxes, cell phones, guns, bows, fishing poles, etc.) onto poultry premises;
- never take a vehicle onto a poultry premises that was driven in waterfowl or game bird areas or used by hunters/hikers unless it has been cleaned and disinfected inside and outside.

Hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation are part of the fabric of many Pennsylvania families and communities. As a conservation technician whose job duties include interaction with poultry facilities, it is vitally important that you recognize and manage any exposure to the AI virus that may come through hunting and other outdoor recreation activities. By recognizing these potential AI exposures, and treating them as any other work-based potential AI exposure, hunters and other outdoor enthusiast can safely perform their employment duties and also enjoy the great outdoors of Pennsylvania.