



Riverside County

AGRICULTURE

The official publication of Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.
A private, nonprofit organization serving farmers throughout Riverside County since 1917

USDA Confirms Virulent Newcastle Disease in a Commercial Chicken Flock in California

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed virulent Newcastle disease in a second commercial poultry flock in California. The latest case is in a commercial layer flock in Riverside County. This finding is part of an outbreak in southern California that began in May 2018 in backyard exhibition birds.

Virulent Newcastle disease is not a food safety concern. No human cases of Newcastle disease have ever occurred from eating poultry products. Properly cooked poultry products are safe to eat. In very rare instances people working directly with sick birds can become infected.

Symptoms are usually very mild, and limited to conjunctivitis and/or influenza-like symptoms. Infection is easily prevented by using standard personal protective equipment.

APHIS is working closely with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to respond to the finding, limit the disease's spread in commercial poultry, and then eradicate it. Federal and State partners are conducting additional surveillance and testing in the area, and are working with nearby commercial farms to increase biosecurity to prevent additional disease spread.

It is essential that all bird owners follow good biosecurity practices to help protect their birds from infectious diseases. These include simple steps like washing hands and scrubbing boots before and after entering a poultry area; and cleaning and disinfecting tires and equipment before moving them off the property.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, either through their state veterinarian or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593. Additional information on biosecurity for all poultry flocks can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.

Additional background

Virulent Newcastle disease is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, nervous and digestive systems of birds and poultry. The disease is so virulent that many birds and poultry die without showing any clinical signs. A death rate of almost 100 percent can occur in unvaccinated poultry flocks. Virulent Newcastle disease can infect and cause death even in vaccinated poultry.

Clinical signs of virulent Newcastle disease include: sudden death and increased death loss in the flock; sneezing; gasping for air; nasal discharge; coughing; greenish, watery diarrhea; decreased activity; tremors; drooping wings; twisting of the head and neck; circling; complete stiffness; and swelling around the eyes and neck.

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Welcome New Members

We would like to "Thank You" for becoming part of the Farm Bureau Family.

POULTRY

If you deal directly with poultry or pet birds, protecting your birds against disease should be a priority. Developing and implementing an effective biosecurity plan is essential toward that goal. Diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) can strike poultry and pet birds quickly and cause significant mortality and economic loss. Consequently, all bird owners need to be vigilant. Become familiar with signs of disease in birds. Report sick birds to your veterinarian or to the Sick Bird Hotline 866-922-2473. Remember, biosecurity measures must be practiced diligently, every day, without fail or exception to be effective.

QUICK TIPS

1. When obtaining birds isolate them away from other birds for 30 days before adding them into your flock. This will reduce the risk of introducing disease into the original flock.
2. Your birds should not have contact with wild birds including game birds and migratory waterfowl, rodents or insects as these may carry disease organisms. Outdoor birds should be kept in a screened in area to minimize exposure to diseases.
3. Always obtain birds from reputable disease-free sources that practice good biosecurity methods.
4. Obtain feed from clean dependable suppliers and store the feed in containers that are bird, rodent, and insect proof. Provide clean fresh water to your birds at all times.
5. Restrict access by visitors onto the premises where your birds are housed. Do not allow people who own other birds to come in contact with your birds.
6. Consult your local veterinarian for more useful tips.

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Understanding farm succession planning

Finding time to talk to your family about succession planning for your farm may be difficult. You may also be uncomfortable with the thought of selling your farm or handing over control to family members.

Make the time to develop a solid transition plan for your farming business. You'll help ensure that your family's wishes are met, and emotional stress is minimized.

What you should know up front about transitioning your farm

Unlike estate plans, which concentrate on tax liabilities and the various ways to lessen the tax burden, succession plans focus on the future of the farm. They're an integral part of an estate farm plan.

When you decide to retire, your farm succession plan may include:

- Transferring or selling ownership to a vested family member. To be fair to non-farming heirs, you may leave them with equal settlements of money, stock or other assets.
- Liquidating farm assets, such as auctioning equipment and livestock or selling land.
- Renting or leasing your land and equipment.
- Selling or contracting the property.

Determine the desired end result

Concentrate on the desired final outcomes of the succession. Among the important questions, you should ask yourself:

- What do my spouse and I envision for the future of the farm?
- Do I want to stay involved with the operation on a smaller scale?
- What kind of income might I need for retirement or health care costs?

If you have a family member who could and may want to take over the operation, you should be comfortable that they have the knowledge and skills to run it profitably. Also, think about siblings who might each want a piece of the farm. Are you being pressured to sell by those who don't share your love of the land?

Getting it right the first time

Succession plans sometimes fail because certain risks were not considered during the planning stages, including:

- Inadequate cash flow
- Liquidation of some assets to provide for retirement
- Poor farm estate planning
- Unresolved issues between family members or a successor who's not prepared to lead and manage the farm business

It's important to enlist the help of qualified professionals who don't have a stake in the final decisions. They can help you make sound, unbiased decisions for your farm estate. Qualified professionals may include:

- A financial or estate planner who specializes in farm estate planning
- A moderator or arbitrator to help with family discussions
- Your banker to help with finance resources
- Your accountant who has income records and projections for your business
- Your personal attorney, or one who specializes in tax issues

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The Riverside County Farm Bureau would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to all those that supported our Annual Dinner.

We would like to give additional thanks to the Coachella Valley History Museum for a beautiful backdrop for our event, Juan Carlos of Molcajete in Indio for the fabulous dinner, and George Cordero for the wonderful ice cream. And, a special thank you to our Director and Riverside YF&R District II Representative Celeste Alonzo and the YF&R volunteers for their assistance with the event. You all made this event a great success.



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CFBF PRESIDENT OUTLINES POLICY PRIORITIES



Describing Farm Bureau as an organization “that wants to go beyond making a statement by being determined to make a difference,”

California Farm Bureau Federation President Jamie Johansson outlined priorities for CFBF during its 100th Annual Meeting in San Diego today.

One area of ongoing emphasis will be in water policy, Johansson said, noting that Farm Bureau is prepared “to continue defending water rights and shaping water policy in 2019.”

“The strength of our water policy is the commitment to the idea that to meet California’s water needs, we do not need to sacrifice the water needs of one region over another farm community,” he said.

CFBF will remain actively engaged in policy discussions involving other natural resources, Johansson pledged, pointing out that California’s scourge of wildfires has demonstrated that “if we do not manage our resources, they quickly become liabilities.”

He said Farm Bureau would continue to fight back against expanding government regulation that hampers agriculture. “That’s what ties us together at Farm Bureau,” Johansson said. “It’s the understanding that what’s bad for an almond farmer is bad for a rice farmer.”

Despite the difficulties, he said, “the opportunities have never been greater to farm and be in agriculture,” thanks to innovation and access to markets.

“What we have to do as Farm Bureau is to show this state that what we do best is create wealth” that benefits everyone involved in agriculture, including farm employees and people who work in transportation, marketing and other jobs, Johansson said, noting that “with water, sunlight, seed, good soil and some knowledge, you can grow something and you can sell it.”

Farm Bureau members today are much like their predecessors who founded the organization in 1919, he said, in their insistence “to make things better.”

“The success of Farm Bureau is as a volunteer gathering of individuals who understand that just like on our farms and ranches, actions speak louder than words,” Johansson said.

Government shutdown causes mixed impact

Essential federal services and programs affecting agriculture remain in operation during the partial government shutdown, while others have gone on hiatus. Because U.S. Agriculture Department offices have closed during the shutdown, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said Tuesday the agency will allow farmers extra time to apply for relief from retaliatory trade tariffs. Programs such as food inspection and grading continue to operate.



Pictured above is RCFB's booth at California Farm Bureau Federation's 100th Annual Meeting Conference in San Diego, December 4 - 7, 2018. Photos taken by Executive Director Rachael Johnson

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Increases in Minimum Wage¹
Increases in Minimum Monthly Salary of Exempt Managers/Supervisors²
Phase In of Overtime Thresholds for Non-Exempt Agricultural Employees³

Year	Employers with 26 or more employees at any time during a pay period ("large employers")				Employers with 25 or fewer employees at all times during a pay period ("small employers")			
	Minimum Wage (\$/hour)	Maximum hours/workday at regular rate	Maximum hours/workweek at regular rate	Minimum Exempt Employee Salary (\$/month)	Minimum Wage (\$/hour)	Maximum hours/workday at regular rate	Maximum hours/workweek at regular rate	Minimum Exempt Employee Salary (\$/month)
2017	10.50	10	N/A	3,640	10	10	N/A	3,467
2018	11	10	N/A	3,814	10.50	10	N/A	3,640
2019	12	9.5	55	4,160	11	10	N/A	3,814
2020	13	9	50	4,507	12	10	N/A	4,160
2021	14	8.5	45	4,854	13	10	N/A	4,507
2022	15	8*	40	5,200	14	9.5	55	4,854
2023	15	8*	40	5,200	15	9.0	50	5,200
2024	15 ↑	8*	40	5,200 ↑	15 ↑	8.5	45	5,200 ↑
2025	15 ↑	8*	40	5,200 ↑	15 ↑	8*	40	5,200 ↑

*Double time after 12 hours

↑Starting on 1/1/24, the minimum wage will be adjusted annually for increases (capped at 3.5%) in the U.S. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

Premium Pay Rates: The overtime premium rate is 1½ times an employee's regular rate of pay, except it is double an employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked beyond 12 in a workday starting on 1/1/22 for employees of large employers and 1/1/25 for employees of small employers.

7th-Day Overtime: A nonexempt employee must be compensated at a rate that is not less than

- 1½ times the employee's regular rate of pay for the first 8 hours worked on the 7th day of work in a workweek.
- Double the employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked over 8 on the 7th day of work in a workweek.

Exemptions: Irrigators, sheepherders, and commercial fishing vessel crew members lose their overtime-exempt status and are entitled to be compensated for overtime work as shown above starting on 1/1/19 if employed by a large employer and 1/1/22 if employed by a small employer.

¹ Cal. Labor Code § 1182.12.

² Cal. Labor Code § 515.

³ Cal. Labor Code §§ 860-862; draft update of Industrial Welfare Commission Order No. 14-2001.

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EMWD Welcomes Stephen J. Corona as New Board Member

Stephen J. Corona, a local farmer and business owner, was sworn in today as Eastern Municipal Water District's newest board member.

Corona was elected in November by the residents of Division 2 – the Temecula and Murrieta areas – to a four-year term that will run through 2022.

"I am honored that the residents of Division 2 have entrusted me with this responsibility," Corona said. "EMWD is one of the most well-respected water agencies in California and has been a leader in shaping policy while providing cost-effective and sustainable services to its communities."

"I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Board to serve the growing and diverse needs of the residents, businesses and agricultural communities throughout EMWD's service area."

Corona served as a board member for Temecula-based Rancho California Water District for 16 years. He is also active with the Riverside County Farm Bureau, a former member of the Riverside County General Plan Advisory Committee, and a number of other industry and community organizations.

"On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we would like to welcome Director Corona to EMWD," EMWD President David Slawson said. "Director Corona brings a wealth of experience as a public official in the water industry, and we look forward to incorporating his vision of how EMWD will serve its communities."

Corona is President of Corona Ranch, located in Temecula. The company farms grapefruit, avocados, onions, sod and hay. Corona is a graduate of Pepperdine University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He and his wife, Maureen, have one son and live in Temecula.

Pictured: Your Riverside County Farm Bureau Delegates and Alternates, and guest representing you the member, at California Farm Bureau Federation's 100th Annual Meeting Conference in San Diego, December 4 - 7, 2018. Photos taken by Executive Director Rachael Johnson

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Russo's Italian Kitchen in Banning.



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