

Advice to producers on selling backyard hens and their obligations

Australian egg producers have a reputation for producing high quality, nutritious and safe eggs. Let's protect that reputation by protecting the health of our hens, right along the supply chain.

During this COVID 19 pandemic there is a high demand for backyard hens and on-selling spent hens to the public to keep as backyard hens has been a source of additional income.

However, selling spent hens can be a way of spreading diseases, including notifiable diseases that can have significant impact on the industry and human health. Agriculture Victoria and the Department of Health and Human Services have been investigating recent cases of *Salmonella* Enteritidis.

While birds infected with *Salmonella* may show signs of depression, poor growth, weakness, diarrhoea and dehydration, they may also show no symptoms.

If your hens are unwell, contact your vet.

If you are on-selling spent hens or any other poultry, it is paramount that you keep traceable records of the sale, including date, address, and contacts of the person to whom they were sold. This is important so that if there is a food safety, animal health or other related incident, the movements of the birds can be rapidly traced and the situation resolved as quickly as possible. Rapid traceback is essential for consumers to maintain confidence in the safety of the eggs our industry produces.

All elements of the supply chain need to work together on traceability to ensure the safety and profitability of the industry.

Different biosecurity legislations are in place for different states and territories. Please refer to your own state legislation.

Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014*

NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*

WA Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act (2007) plus local government legislation

Tasmania Biosecurity Act 2019

Victoria Goods Act 1958 and Livestock Disease Control Act (LDCA) and Regulations

SA Livestock Act 1997 and the Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) (Egg) Regulations 2012

You should refer to the National Farm Biosecurity Technical Manual for Egg Production, specifically clause 4.4.2 which states that "A record of bird movements must be maintained to facilitate tracing in case of an animal health or food safety concern."

For further information about *Salmonella* visit:

<https://www.safefood.qld.gov.au/newsroom/salmonella-enteritidis-se-and-the-recall-of-eggs/>

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/poultry-and-birds/health-disease/salmonella-enteritidis>

agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/poultry-diseases/salmonella-enteritidis

https://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Salmonella_General%20information_FACTSHEET.pdf

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/poultry/salmonella_enteritidis

or

australianeggs.org.au/facts-and-tips/eggs-and-salmonella/