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Executive Director's Report

Information Vital to Protect Your Business

Help Needed – Economic Data Will Protect Gamebird Businesses

The last issue NAGA News included an article entitled, "Know Your Worth," alerting NAGA members to look for an email that includes an economic survey that will help the gamebird industry to demonstrate its worth to government, the media, suppliers and potential partners. Your participation is vital to ensuring that the data is comprehensive and accurate. The survey is being conducted by Southwick Associates, the top outdoor recreation economic research firm in the nation.



Please check your email inbox, or your spam filter. You can still participate in the survey even if you are unable to locate the email. Simply open your web browser, and use this web address: www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2068680/NAGA-SURVEY. This link will allow you to participate before the deadline. All responses will be completely confidential. Not even NAGA will see your response.

The Kuhl Corporation will provide a \$1,000 gift certificate worth for products to one lucky person who completes the survey. Fill out your survey today!

Disease Outbreak News

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been detected in wild migratory fowl across the western states of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Cases have also been confirmed in turkey farms in Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas. This threatens the livelihoods

of gamebird producers and preserves across the country.

NAGA is swinging into action to provide critical information to the gamebird community.

The NAGA Health Committee is meeting weekly to equip people to deal with this outbreak. Our goals can be summed up into 3 P's: Prepare, Prevent, and Promote. NAGA will be publishing articles in NAGA News, our website (mynaga.org), and email blasts.

Prepare: NAGA members must understand the characteristics of this outbreak and the importance of disease testing.

Prevent: Articles by industry experts and veterinary professionals provide guidelines on reducing the risk of an avian influenza outbreak.

Promote: NAGA will educate gamebird businesses on how important it is to test for disease. This information is vitally important. The actions of one sloppy actor could result in costly losses and quarantines for neighboring operations.

Outbreaks like this are scary because of the potential for severe financial loss. But they also represent an opportunity. This crisis enables us to take steps to emerge stronger and better prepared both as an organiza-



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Mature Flight Ready Chukars (September-March)
Mature Flight Ready Pheasants (September-March)
Started Mallards 4 - 5 weeks old (June-July)
Mature Flight Ready Mallards (September-March)

NPIP Approved A.I. Clean NAGA Member

tion and as individual businesses.

This also allows non-members of NAGA to see the full value of our association. Much like the Weather Channel during a hurricane, the North American Gamebird Association will provide vital information, education and assistance to gamebird producers and hunting preserves. We will be work with key government agencies to ensure that our needs are heard and met.

This is the perfect time to join NAGA. Our community is much stronger than unaffiliated farmers and operators facing this issue alone.

NAGA is swinging into action to provide critical information to the gamebird community.



If you know of such a nonmember gamebird business close to your place, encourage them to join. They need to know that there is much more safety in the herd. ★

Rob Sexton
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Our condolences to Houston Johnson of Texas on the passing of his father on March 28th.

And our thoughts and prayers are with Jamie Gardner's wife Sarah who was in a serious car accident in February. Jamie operates WR Farms in Clyde, Ohio.

Sam and Peg Ballou announce the marriage of their daughter Rebekah to Matthew Brown of Indianapolis. Rebekah donated artwork to the NAGA Auction as a way to give back to the cause. Rebekah was a previous scholarship winner and her artwork was featured on the cover of the NAGA News.

6 Do's and Don'ts to Help Prevent the Spread of Avian Influenza

1. Don't track it in on your shoes. AI is transmitted through feces and can be tracked into your barns on shoes or boots you wore outside. Have dedicated footwear that is only worn where birds are kept. Booties may be an option. Invest in a footbath to properly sanitize footwear.

2. Don't bring it into your farm on delivery trucks. After making deliveries or picking up birds, stop at a local car wash and pressure wash tires and vehicles.

3. Don't wear your work clothes around town. Change into other clothes before running to town for gas or supplies. AI can be picked up or spread in the common places we go.

4. Don't wear your hunting, fishing, biking, hiking, or camping shoes and clothes to work. These places are frequented by wild waterfowl, which can carry the AI virus. That goose poop at the park could be the start of an outbreak.

5. Do be informed about who you are buying from. Find out if the producers you buy birds from are NPIP tested, AI clean, and have proper bio security procedures in place to protect themselves and you.

6. Do inform your neighboring gamebird farms and hunt clubs about the AI threat, and how best to prevent it. Use information supplied by NAGA or other reputable sources. Remember: their outbreak could result in a quarantine on your place too.

President, *continued from page 3*

the outbreak of Avian Influenza in the country. From the discovery of AI in ducks and geese in the northwest, to the actual positive tests found on turkey farms in MN, MO, AL and a backyard flock in KS, it is not an overstatement to say this is a huge threat, maybe the greatest threat, to our industry. We cannot panic, but must take immediate action to protect our future. To that end we have tailored this edition to, and will continue to research, monitor and inform our membership about, this great concern. It is imperative now as never before that you update your email information with NAGA so that you can receive email blasts regarding this and other important issues. The Facebook page will not be used for sensitive information to prevent unfavorable distribution.

What can you do? Get registered with NPIP and get your flocks tested. Only buy birds from NPIP tested AI clean flocks. Finally, your fellow growers and hunt clubs need to be informed and involved. Another gamebird operation's actions within your state or region can readily affect you. Now more than ever it is important to bring nonmembers into the NAGA for information and accountability. I am pleased that our Executive Director Rob Sexton and Health Committee headed by Bill MacFarlane have taken the lead in information gathering and writing articles to help us all be more proactive in dealing with this situation. ★

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