

CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Animal Health Section
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Partial Lift of Poultry Import Ban

Day-Old Chicks from Hawaii and Guam Now Allowed; Updated Guidelines for Hatching Eggs

Saipan, CNMI – The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), Animal Health Section, announces a partial lift of the poultry import ban previously enacted due to avian influenza concerns. Effective immediately, the importation of day-old chicks from Hawaii and Guam is now permitted under strict health and biosecurity conditions.

What Is Currently Allowed?

From Hawaii and Guam

- Day-old chicks: Allowed
- Hatching eggs: Allowed
- Live adult poultry: Not allowed

From the Mainland United States

- Hatching eggs: Allowed
- Day-old chicks: Not allowed
- Live adult poultry: Not allowed

Why Day-Old Chicks from Hawaii and Guam Are Now Permitted

Day-old chicks from National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)-certified hatcheries present a much lower risk of spreading highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). These chicks are hatched in sanitized environments.

Hawaii's geographic isolation also reduces its risk. Although Hawaii reported a few cases of HPAI in backyard flocks in November 2024, no new cases have been reported since. Guam has had no reported cases of HPAI. Based on this data, DLNR has determined that the controlled importation of day-old chicks from Hawaii and Guam can resume safely.

Requirements for Importing Day-Old Chicks from Hawaii or Guam

A permit must be obtained from DLNR Animal Health prior to importing day-old chicks. Ranchers should reach out to Animal Health for an application and submit the following documents for review:

***Inspection Certification** (in compliance with T85-20.1 § 85-20.1-825)

- Description of the day-old poultry
- Statement of pullorum-clean rating for the source flock
- Statement that the flock has been free of transmissible disease symptoms for 60 days
- Statement of vaccination for any disease

***Proof of NPIP Certification:** Hawaii imports must come from NPIP-certified hatcheries.

All Mainland U.S. Live Poultry Imports Remain Prohibited

The mainland United States continues to report widespread HPAI outbreaks. Therefore, all live poultry imports from the mainland—including day-old chicks—remain prohibited until further notice.

Hatching Eggs from Hawaii and the Mainland U.S. Are Still Allowed

DLNR continues to allow the importation of hatching eggs from Hawaii and the Mainland U.S. under the following conditions:

Inspection Certification (T85-20.1 § 85-20.1-825)

- Description of the hatching chicks
- Statement of pullorum-clean rating for the source flock
- Statement that the flock has been free of transmissible disease symptoms for 60 days
- Statement of vaccination for any disease

Sanitation Statement

Exporters must confirm the following:

- Thorough cleaning to remove organic debris
- Disinfection with EPA-approved avian influenza disinfectants
- Fumigation or fogging to eliminate surface contamination
- Adherence to biosecurity measures during handling and transport

Packaging: Hatching eggs must be packed in new, unused containers.

How to Apply for an Entry Permit

Complete and application and submit documentation for day-old chicks or hatching eggs to the DLNR Animal Health Section:

- **Email:** cnmianimalhealth@gmail.com
- **In person:** Department of Agriculture Office in Kagman
- **Phone:** (670) 256-3319

Animal Health Section staff will review the documents and inform you of the next steps. They will also inspect the eggs and/or day-old chicks upon arrival.

Fees for Import are currently being evaluated to maximize rancher production and support the local poultry industry.

Reporting Sick or Dead Birds

Residents should report unusual bird deaths or signs of illness. Single bird deaths are not typically a concern, but clusters of five or more should be reported immediately.

- **Avian Influenza Hotline:** (670) 483-6261