Standard Operating Guidelines

Animal Housing Procedures for Poultry

Poultry housing areas require due diligence in wearing appropriate PPE to protect individuals from occupational health hazards. The PPE required is largely dependent on the activities being performed in the room at a given time. For example, if the area is dusty, or dust is expected to be generated, respiratory protection should be worn to help limit exposure to poultry dust. Poultry dust is a mixture of bird feed, feathers, bird droppings, bacteria, fungi, and endotoxins.

Activities known to produce dust in poultry housing areas include, but are not limited to, sweeping floors, shoveling bedding, and removing poultry from pens.

Respiratory protection must be offered to all staff and research personnel working in areas where poultry is housed. The following steps are required with respiratory protection:

- Complete an OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire (this is a one-time questionnaire unless the individual has changes to their health status, then a new questionnaire must be submitted for review)
- Complete respiratory protection training provided by the EH&S department
- Receive respirator fit testing on at least an annual basis

PPE to be worn while performing routine work in poultry housing areas where dust is anticipated include:

- Disposable gloves
- Lab coat or disposable fluid resistant coveralls (i.e. Tyvek or similar)
- Disposable shoe covers
- N95 mask.

*If wearing a lab coat or other non-disposable dedicated clothing, it should be left in the facility and laundered per facility protocols.

Additional precautionary steps required for poultry room clean-up/overhaul activities at the end of the study include:

- Poultry waste should be left undisturbed to dry for 2-3 days once birds are no longer present prior to removal
- Mist down bedding with water before shoveling into containers for removal from facility (this must be done throughout the clean-up activity, as the layers of bedding are removed, to keep dust to a minimum)
• Wear required PPE (disposable fluid resistant coveralls, safety glasses/goggles, N95 respirator, disposable gloves, and disposable shoe covers)
• Showering is strongly advised prior to leaving the facility at the end of each clean up session to prevent carrying allergens home to your family.

National Ag Safety Database recommendations for respiratory health with poultry workers link
https://nasdonline.org/197/d000146/respiratory-health-on-the-poultry-farm.html

The University of Texas Southwest Center for Agricultural health, Injury Prevention and Education recommendations link

The U.K. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Quick Guide to Poultry Dust link
https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/poultry/guide.htm

OSHA Hazard Information Bulletins Contracting Occupationally Related Psittacosis
https://www.osha.gov/publications/hib19940808