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Oxford, NC – North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler announced on January 7, 2016, that the moratorium on Poultry sales and shows in North Carolina has been lifted. This allows people to take their birds to shows and sales where birds have contact with each other.

The moratorium was placed as a measure to prevent the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which caused the death of over 50 million birds in early 2015 in the mid-western United States. Since the virus is carried by migrating waterfowl, the moratorium was placed to limit the exposure of poultry to potential carriers of the HPAI virus. Since the moratorium was placed, there have been no reported cases of HPAI in North Carolina.

The Commissioner and the State Veterinarian will evaluate and act on any new information on the disease to protect the state's commercial poultry industry and the more than 4,000 small flocks spread across North Carolina.

Poultry owners are encouraged to continue using biosecurity measures to keep their flocks safe. Information about HPAI is available on the NCDS&CS web site, <http://www.ncagr.gov/avianflu>, or from your county Cooperative Extension Center. The Granville County Center phone number is (919) 603-1350.

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