



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **DEC tests poultry at Alaska State Fair in Palmer**

*More than 10,000 wild birds tested this season, hundreds of domestic*

**August 21, 2006—Anchorage—**Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) State Veterinarian will provide infectious disease surveillance testing to poultry owners and producers free of charge at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer. DEC staff will provide testing on August 22 and August 29; the fair runs from August 24 through September 4, 2006.

"Biosecurity measures are the best way to protect your flock from infectious diseases like Avian Influenza. It is as simple as creating a barrier between your birds and wild birds that could be sources of infection," said DEC State Veterinarian Dr. Bob Gerlach. "We've tested domestic birds at the Kenai Peninsula and Tanana Valley State fairs and are pleased to be doing the same at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer."

The samples collected will be tested at the State's new Environmental Health Laboratory in Anchorage, with results expected within one week. Information about backyard biosecurity to protect pet birds and flocks from infectious diseases will be available in the poultry exhibition area and at the DEC booth in Raven Hall. Information can also be obtained from University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension agents.

To schedule free onsite surveillance testing, poultry producers may contact the Office of the State Veterinarian at (907) 375-8200 or at [Bob\\_Gerlach@dec.state.ak.us](mailto:Bob_Gerlach@dec.state.ak.us).

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