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News Release: May 21, 2015

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## AVIAN FLU BIRD DISPOSAL EDUCATION PROVIDED TO MILLS COUNTY RESIDENTS

Mills County government officials are urging residents to educate themselves regarding H5N2 Avian Influenza and the pending arrival of bird carcasses at our local Landfill. Any risk to humans from this Influenza is very low. No human infections have been detected and there are no food safety risks for the consumer.

The Mills County Planning Group for H5N2 Avian Influenza has appointed Sheri Bowen as the Public Information Officer and an educational plan is under development. Educational information will be available through the Mills County website at [birdflu.millscoia.us](http://birdflu.millscoia.us) and through the Mills County Emergency Management Facebook Page. There will also be an upcoming opportunity to meet at a “Town Hall” meeting in Malvern – to learn more about the disposal plan and its low risk to the community. Concerns can also be addressed through a State-wide 24/7 Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985.

Conversations with Robert Glebs, owner of the Loess Hills Landfill, indicate his business is getting ready to receive the birds, however, there will be a delay as roads, decontamination areas and tented areas for USDA, IDALS and DNR officials are under construction. Rainy weather could also cause delays in accepting delivery.

“There is a specific protocol that has been developed for disposal of these bird carcasses and it’s designed to reduce risk to the community, said Sheri Bowen, PIO. As we learn more about that process, we can be reassured of the effectiveness of the plan.”

Information regarding the upcoming Town Hall meeting will be released as soon as it is available. Please take time to educate yourself about this process and the importance of disposing of these birds in a timely, safe manner.