

<p>ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</p> <p><u>SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT</u></p> <p>ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION</p> <p>Enforcement of poultry husbandry and production of eggs sold in this state. A.R.S. § 3-710J. and R3-2-901 et seq.</p>	<p>DIVISION/ PROGRAM ASD</p> <hr/> <p>SP 24-01</p> <p><i>Paul E. Brianley</i></p> <p>SIGNATURE</p> <p>5/30/2024</p> <p>DATE</p>
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This Substantive Policy Statement is advisory only. A Substantive Policy Statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona administrative procedure act. If you believe that this Substantive Policy Statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under section 41-1033, Arizona Revised Statutes, for a review of the statement.

1. BACKGROUND

The Arizona Department of Agriculture, Animal Services Division (the "Division") is responsible for the development and adoption of rules for poultry husbandry and the production of eggs sold in this state. Those standards were updated to include cage-free requirements for producers of a certain size, to be effective January 1, 2025. Since that rulemaking there has been an increase of Avian Influenza that has affected egg production throughout the United States, resulting in a national egg shortage. The spread of Avian Influenza poses significant public health, animal welfare, and economic concerns, as well as practical challenges for producers and the Division. Accordingly, the Department has decided to delay enforcement of the newly established standards.

2. POLICY

The Department will not enforce the newly adopted cage-free standards listed in A.A.C. R3-2-907 E. and F. until January 1, 2026.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Substantive Policy Statement is effective immediately and will expire on December 31st of 2025, unless extended by the Division.