



AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been found in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States. HPAI is a highly contagious disease of birds and frequently causes death in domestic poultry.

WHAT KINDS OF BIRDS ARE AT RISK?

HPAI is highly contagious and often fatal for domesticated poultry, including **chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese, and guinea fowl**. It can be carried by free flying migratory waterfowl, such as ducks, geese, and shorebirds.

DOES HPAI INFECT PEOPLE?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the current avian influenza strain does not present an immediate public health concern, however, there is always the potential of viral mutation. Poultry meat and poultry products are safe when following CDC food preparation recommendations.

HOW IS HPAI SPREAD?

The disease is frequently introduced to new areas by migratory waterfowl. People can then spread HPAI by moving infected birds or contaminated equipment and feed. People can also spread HPAI on clothing and vehicles.

WHAT DOES HPAI LOOK LIKE IN BIRDS?

Some signs of HPAI include sudden death of poultry without clinical signs, respiratory signs (nasal discharge, coughing sneezing), a lack of energy or appetite, decreased water consumption, decreased egg production or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs.

WHY HAS PENNSYLVANIA CANCELLED POULTRY EXHIBITIONS FOR THIS FAIR SEASON?

Though we have seen an encouraging decline in cases in recent weeks, Pennsylvania's poultry industry and small backyard flocks remain vulnerable to HPAI. The continued ban on exhibitions is a measure to minimize the risk of further virus transmission.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE?

Pennsylvania has a very robust poultry industry and we will recover from this. There is a chance, however, the disease remains in the environment. It could also reappear next Fall or Winter with the return of migratory waterfowl. It is important that we do not let our guard down at this point. Now would also be a good time to enhance your biosecurity. While we are encouraged to see a decrease in detections of HPAI both in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States

Protect your flock

- *If you think your birds are sick please immediately call the **PDA Sick Bird Hotline** at: 717-772-2852, Option 1*
- *Keep your birds away from other birds.*
- *If you visit family or friends with birds, shower, wash your clothes, and change your shoes before handling your birds*
- *Don't visit them without taking these same steps if you have handled your birds.*
- *Try to keep people who also own birds from visiting your property*
- *Share information about HPAI with family and friends*

**PDA SICK BIRD HOTLINE:
717-772-2852 (Option 1)**