

U.S.D.A. confirms finding

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the United States

Since December 2014, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been found in poultry and wild birds in the U.S. All poultry owners need to be on the lookout for signs of HPAI and use good biosecurity practices to protect their birds. There is no immediate public health concern from the viruses.



Swelling of the face and head

Report Sick Birds or High Death losses:

Signs on HPAI may include:

- Sudden death with no clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, combs, wattles and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing, sneezing
- Ruffled feathers and increased death loss
- Incoordination, head and neck twisted
- Diarrhea



Purple discoloration of the comb

Protect your birds with Good Biosecurity

AI spreads from bird to bird, from manure, contaminated vehicles and equipment, egg flats, crates, and shoes which have come in contact with the virus. Help protect your birds by following these practices:

- Keep poultry away from water which wild waterfowl use
- Don't use surface water (such as pond water) as a drinking water source for your poultry
- Only allow essential workers and vehicles to enter your farm; disinfect vehicle wheels before letting them drive onto your farm
- Don't lend or borrow equipment from other farms
- Avoid visiting other poultry farms and auctions. If you do, change clothes and footwear before working with your own birds.
- Place disinfectant footbaths outside of bird housing to keep from tracking the virus into your bird pens (when outdoor temperatures are above freezing)



HPAI usually causes high death losses

Making an Easy Footbath

You will need:

- A low plastic pan or bin, wide enough to
- fit an adult's foot, shallow enough to step into easily
- A plastic doormat (the "fake grass" mats work well)
- A disinfectant that works when manure or dirt is present, such as Tek-trol or One Stroke Environ
- Water

Mix the disinfectant with water following label instructions. Put the doormat in the plastic pan. Add disinfectant so that the bottom of the "grass" is wet.

Ask visitors to walk through the footbath, wiping their feet on the mat. The "grass" scrubs their shoes a bit as they wipe them, and applies the disinfectant. When the liquid starts to get dirty, empty it and put in new disinfectant.

For updated information on HPAI in the U.S.
visit the USDA website at:

www.aphis.usda.gov

and click on "Animal Health"