



From Backyard To Barnyard: Biosecurity for Poultry on a Multi-Species Farm Webinar Questions and Answers April 2025

Has HPAI been found in captive raised pigeons yet?

Pigeons and doves are typically affected only when exposed to a large amount of virus. So far, detections in these species have been limited to a small number or reports from mixed species farms.

All the confirmed detections are available on the APHIS website: www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/commercial-backyard-flocks.

Are there any printed materials, brochures, and other items available about avian influenza, for flock owners?

Absolutely! The Defend the Flock Resource Center offers free information and resources on many topics from “Biosecurity Basics” to checklists and guides: www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock/resources.

Can humans contract HPAI from eating [affected chickens]?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the public health risk associated with these avian influenza detections in birds remains low.

While the United States has multiple safeguards in place to protect consumers, we continue to recommend consumers properly handle raw meats and cook to a safe internal temperature of 165°F. Cooking to a safe internal temperature kills bacteria and viruses in meat.

Where can I find the maps used in this presentation showing HPAI detection in the U.S.?

Maps showing current detections are available on our website: www.aphis.usda.gov/h5n1-hpai#detections-hpai.

How responsive is the USDA phone number if someone calls? Is it available 24/7?

When you call USDA toll-free at 1-866-536-7593 to report sick birds, you will be connected with a Veterinary Services office in your local area (calls are routed based on the area code of the number you are calling from). Calls are answered during normal business hours. For 24-hour response, it's best to contact your veterinarian or an emergency veterinarian in your region.

What if you had a wild bird get in your coop?

If any wild birds gain access to your coop, it's important to remove the wild birds from your poultry enclosures as quickly as possible, plug any holes in the coop where the wild birds may have entered, and then monitor your flock for any clinical signs for 14 days. This website includes additional information regarding signs of avian influenza in your flock:

www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza. The Defend the Flock Resource Center contains additional information regarding wildlife management practices on your farm: www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock/resources.

Have you seen any transmission directly from rodents?

The exact role of wildlife in disease spread is still unclear. The Defend the Flock Resource Center includes materials to help prevent rodents from transmitting diseases to your flock and additional information regarding wildlife management practices on your farm:

- www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fsc-birds-checklist-english.pdf
- www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock/resources

Is bleach approved by EPA for killing HPAI virus?

Several products have shown to be effective against avian influenza. You can view the full list of EPA-registered antimicrobial products that are effective against avian influenza at:

www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/epas-registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-avian-influenza.

What if I buy from a NPIP hatchery but the chicks have nasal discharge when they arrive?

Please contact your veterinarian if you suspect illness in your flock. For information regarding signs of HPAI in your flock and who to contact, go to: www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza.

Do you anticipate large State and County Fairs having a need to be mindful / cautious of spread even though it might impact their State "tourism" income over the summer months if animals are not traveling for competition/show?

Fair participants should always be mindful and cautious to keep their animals safe and free from disease. USDA's recommendations for maintaining animal health and safety during fairs and exhibitions can be found at:

- www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/checklist-fair-organizers-stop-flu-a.pdf
- www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/checklist-fair-exhibitors-stop-flu-a.pdf