

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

## Table-Egg Layers Case-Control Study Preliminary Findings

May 2023

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) requires rapid response because it is extremely contagious disease and often fatal to chickens and turkeys. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service conducted a study among commercial layer farms to investigate potential risk factors for introducing the HPAI virus onto farms.

### Study Design

Commercial egg-layer farms were eligible for the study, and 40 farms from 8 States participated. Case farms were confirmed positive for HPAI between February 22 and September 3, 2022. Control farms were from the same states but did not have HPAI during the same period.

### Potential Risk Factors for HPAI Introduction on Commercial Egg Layer Farms



Waterfowl or shorebirds close to your farm increases risk.



Infected farms near you increase your risk.



Not having a farm entrance gate increases risk.

### Investments in Biosecurity Improvements to Reduce HPAI Risk

The results of the study concluded that producers could reduce their likelihood of contracting HPAI by investing in the following biosecurity improvements:



Protect feed and clean up spills immediately.



Wash vehicles coming onto the farm.



Prevent wild bird or animal access to feed.