

Around the Homestead Podcast
Avian Influenza for Backyard Poultry
Transcript

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00:00:13,790 --> 00:00:20,660
Welcome to around the Homestead podcast, where we share information on topics from gardens to goats,

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00:00:20,660 --> 00:00:29,330
our aim is to provide small farmers and landowners valuable education on projects that may arise around the homestead.

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Whether you have been on the homestead all your life or you had just began the farm lifestyle,

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00:00:34,460 --> 00:00:39,440
we hope you garner helpful tips to make your lifestyle most rewarding.

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00:00:39,440 --> 00:00:46,380
Now here are our host Brad McGinley and Shaun Rhodes.

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00:00:46,380 --> 00:00:52,380
Well, hello, and welcome to the Around the Homestead podcast, this is an extension agent Brad McGinley here in Grant County,

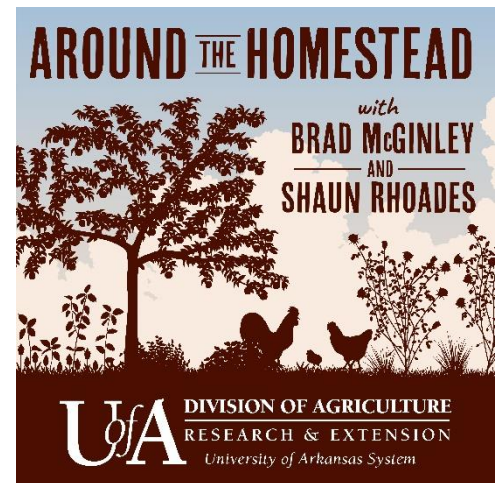
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00:00:52,380 --> 00:00:56,640
Arkansas, joining me today on this cool, cloudy March afternoon.

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00:00:56,640 --> 00:01:01,950
My normal podcast partner, Mr. Shaun Rhodes over in Scott County, couldn't join us today.

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00:01:01,950 --> 00:01:06,510
He's out helping the landowners and farmers in Scott County.

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00:01:06,510 --> 00:01:12,270
Just wanted to give you this note about today's podcast before we get started with our discussion with Dr. Dustin Clark,

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Extension Poultry Health Veterinarian for the University of Arkansas.

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Wanted to give you this note after we recorded this podcast with Dr. Clark.

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The Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission did issue an emergency ruling regarding avian influenza.

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This This ruling does affect the exhibition of poultry and domestic waterfowl in Arkansas, which prohibits that until the middle of July.

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I believe also. It also affects the sale, trade and auction of poultry and domestic waterfowl, except for chicks and ducklings.

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Also, it also affects all free range and backyard poultry must be confined under roof and inside

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structures to prevent contamination from affecting migratory birds flying overhead.

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So to find more information, I would refer you to the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission about this emergency ruling.

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Refer to their website for more information. And in the meantime, we're going to chat with Dr. Dustan Clark today about this issue,

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avian influenza and how we can protect our birds here in Arkansas. We have a special guest with us today here on the Around the Homestead podcast.

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We've got Dr. Dustin Clark, who's extension Poultry Health Veterinarian for the University of Arkansas,

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with us today to discuss the current situation with avian flu or bird flu outbreak.

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We appreciate you joining us today, Dr. Clark. Thank you for inviting me, Brad.

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All right. Well, we've got the reason we've had Dr. Clark here with us today is we we have a little

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situation that we want to make sure that our backyard hobby flock owners are,

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well, are aware of. We've got a little outbreak of avian or bird flu going on, and we've got Dr. Clark here to update us on that.

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And I guess the first question for me, Dr. Clark,

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if you could tell a lot of our backyard hobby flock owners is why is this important to them and what's what's going on with this?

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Well, there's two reasons that this is important. One is with the high path avian influenza, which is H5N1.

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High path means that we have, you know, a lot of mortality with it, and that's what we're seeing in the flocks that have broken with it.

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It runs anywhere between 95 to 100 percent mortality.

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Now it's important because this disease not only does it kill birds, but once the flock is infected,

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00:03:36,910 --> 00:03:43,450

that premises has to be quarantined and then it has to be surveillance efforts around that quarantine zone.

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And that quarantine zone goes out 10 kilometers, and there are numerous trade implications that can be because of that.

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And those trade implications can be because of backyard hobby flocks or because of commercial industry.

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Now, the way this was detected is we do have a wild bird or wild migratory bird surveillance program that's carried out.

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And so far, the disease has been detected in wild birds in 24 states, and that's quite a few.

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It is all across all of the flyway.

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It's in the Atlantic Flyway, the Mississippi Central Flyway and in the Pacific Flyway, where it was detected in an eagle.

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Now some of these wild birds were detected on Hunter Harvest because the reservoir for H5 well,

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for any avian influenza, the reservoir is shorebirds and migratory waterfowl.

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So some of these were hunter harvested testings, basically from wild ducks.

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But we have had some birds showing clinical signs in some of these wild birds, and those have been tested.

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And sure enough, we've got it. We've got it affecting wild birds as well as domestic poultry.

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Now we've seen, you know, backyard flocks, harvested birds.

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00:04:59,890 --> 00:05:03,580

What are they? What caused those hunters to to?

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Or is that just regulatory regular surveillance of that? Or what caused that?

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You know, what made them get their those tested?

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00:05:11,140 --> 00:05:19,240

That's just regular surveillance. And what this is conducted by quite a few regulatory agencies underneath the USDA.

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They're working with us and they just basically take those samples.

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And that does give us an idea of what's going on out in the in the migratory birds.

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Now this was first detected in Canada, and that was about the middle to late December of last year.

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And we've had detections in the United States. Like I say, it's now up to over 385 positives, and that's across 24 states.

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Well, in addition to that, we have seen it in 17 states in both backyard and commercial flocks, and that's quite a few states.

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In fact,

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there have been 16 backyard flocks total that have been confirmed positive for the H5N1 and 19 commercial flocks and then one captive wild bird flock.

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Now this is kind of similar. It's sort of like a cousin to the virus that we had in 2015.

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And in that one, there were very few backyard hobby flocks that experience the problem something like about 20 or so numerous commercial flocks.

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This was about 50 50. Some of the big commercial flocks are about three million birds, these are in caged layers.

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Some of the smaller flocks, the backyard flocks. Just a few birds.

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But some of those are even quite large, with a couple of hundred birds or so.

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00:06:36,310 --> 00:06:44,470

Hmm. Wow. Yeah, so let's talk about some of the signs and symptoms, so forget a backyard hobby flock and we think some of our birds are sick.

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What should we be looking for? Well, one of the hallmark signs of high path avian influenza is high mortality.

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So just sudden death in the birds. Now, some of the signs that you can see an the incubation period on this disease

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seems to be somewhere between about two to three days on out to about 14 days.

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You can see a sinusitis runny nose. Basically, the bird is just not going to feel good.

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It's going to stay by itself.

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00:07:11,510 --> 00:07:20,710

Maybe some in coordination, of course, swelling of the head in the face, the waddles, discoloration of the comb and then hemorrhages on the legs.

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Now, internally, this disease is causing, you know, lots of hemorrhage in the internal organs.

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Now a bird is saying by itself, that's acting like it's not feeling good lack of energy.

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00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:35,470

It's not want to eat or drink. Maybe this decrease in production.

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00:07:35,470 --> 00:07:41,950

There are other diseases that could fit that, like Newcastle disease and fowl cholera.

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00:07:41,950 --> 00:07:49,240

So there's a couple of others. So it's very, very important that anyone that sees a bird that's just not doing right,

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00:07:49,240 --> 00:07:54,340

that they call and get some help and they can call, they can call you and call county agents.

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00:07:54,340 --> 00:07:59,290

They can call me, then call the state veterinarian. They can call their local veterinarian.

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And then there is a USDA number that they can find on line with USDA just type in USDA.

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00:08:05,980 --> 00:08:11,770

Avian influenza is part of the Defend the Flock campaign, and they can call at one 800 number.

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00:08:11,770 --> 00:08:21,100

Now what will happen is like, for example, they call me the state veterinarian or even our area epidemiologist for USDA.

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00:08:21,100 --> 00:08:27,100

We'll get in touch to get somebody out there to test that bird and maybe the same thing if they found like a dead bird.

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So, so let's say they do find they go out and find one of their chickens dead. Best thing to do.

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00:08:32,350 --> 00:08:36,520

Put on some gloves like latex or nitrile or vinyl gloves.

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00:08:36,520 --> 00:08:40,660

Take a plastic bag. Put that bird in a plastic bag and put it in a box.

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00:08:40,660 --> 00:08:44,650

Put it in the shade, put some ice in the box and call.

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00:08:44,650 --> 00:08:50,020

And let's get some help out there so we can test and see if that bird does have avian influenza.

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Now, I want to stress that so far, of the 17 states that have had birds break both in backyard hobby flocks and commercial blocks,

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Arkansas is currently not one of those states.

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00:09:02,800 --> 00:09:13,510

We have no detection of the high path avian influenza H5 N1 in the state of Arkansas, either in wild birds or in poultry.

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So so far, we haven't had any problems. That's good.

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And that's why we're trying to stress that the best thing you can do is practice biosecurity to prevent it.

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If you've got a hobby flock of birds, if you let those birds out to roam around,

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00:09:28,420 --> 00:09:33,850

please the best thing you can do it be pin those birds up for at least the next 30 days.

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00:09:33,850 --> 00:09:42,370

Wild waterfowl carry this disease, as do some of the shorebirds. And we do not want the, you know, the wild birds are coming through there.

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00:09:42,370 --> 00:09:46,150

We don't want any contact between those ducks and geese and your birds,

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00:09:46,150 --> 00:09:51,490

and that can be going down to the pond or if they just fly through and you never know.

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00:09:51,490 --> 00:09:59,920

And with that said, if you as a small flock owner, if you go to a park or somewhere where there's waterfowl,

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00:09:59,920 --> 00:10:05,080

you know you're there to feed the ducks, which a lot of people do. And that's that's a lot of fun sometimes.

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00:10:05,080 --> 00:10:13,240

Please be sure that you do not go visit your poultry until you clean and disinfect your shoes, change clothes, shower.

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00:10:13,240 --> 00:10:13,690

You know,

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00:10:13,690 --> 00:10:22,540

sanitize your hands because we don't want you to inadvertently track in any fecal material from those waterfowl that could be carrying that organism.

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00:10:22,540 --> 00:10:31,520

It's been estimated that one gram of feces on your shoes contains possibly up to a million virus particles.

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Wow. Want to use care for that. And that's why we're asking that that you pen your birds up and then just, you know, check your birds,

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00:10:39,350 --> 00:10:45,310

you a flock owner, you're going to know if something's wrong, if they decrease egg production.

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One of the things that's been seen a lot in these birds is that they don't drink water one or two days.

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Water consumption goes down right before they start showing signs.

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And so far, in every backyard flock that's broken, they have found some contact on epidemiological trace back with wild waterfowl.

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00:11:06,700 --> 00:11:10,690

So it's very important that you keep your birds away from those wild waterfowl.

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00:11:10,690 --> 00:11:16,450

If you see something that just doesn't look right, all those signs we talk about the reason egg production,

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00:11:16,450 --> 00:11:21,460

no appetite, not drinking any water, just kind of feeling bad.

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00:11:21,460 --> 00:11:25,090

You know, as veterinarians, we call it, ADR, ain't doing right.

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And as the owner of those birds, you're probably going to be checking those birds a couple of times a day.

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00:11:30,550 --> 00:11:34,840

If you see a bird, just ain't doing right. Give us a call.

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00:11:34,840 --> 00:11:41,550

Let's get you some help. Out there. Yeah, that's language we can understand, we can understand just doing right.

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00:11:41,550 --> 00:11:42,990

And with that said, you know,

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00:11:42,990 --> 00:11:50,220

you'll think about this if you're going to go out and look at birds somewhere like at a flea market or an auction or a sale,

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00:11:50,220 --> 00:11:56,370

you want to you want to check those birds out yourself, make sure they're not sick and you might want to think about is waiting a while.

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00:11:56,370 --> 00:12:01,620

Now, some states, one that comes to mind is Missouri. They've had some breaks there.

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They have instituted a ban on waterfowl sales and auctions and an exhibit.

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We're probably going to see that is this disease continues to spread.

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We will probably see some of those bans put in place in other states as well.

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So that's something to be aware of. And just to.

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00:12:20,850 --> 00:12:24,410

You know, anything you can do. You know, keep your shoes clean.

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00:12:24,410 --> 00:12:29,840

You know, if you handle birds and wash and sanitize your hands, clean and disinfect around there.

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Which brings up a point.

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00:12:30,800 --> 00:12:38,790

One of the easiest disinfectants that you can use as a backyard hobby flock owner, and you can make this in something spray on your boots.

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00:12:38,790 --> 00:12:45,390

If you can just use bleach, one part bleach mixed with three parts water, and that works really pretty good.

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00:12:45,390 --> 00:12:50,480

Now that's going to, you know, want to spray it on your clothes because it will bleach your clothes.

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00:12:50,480 --> 00:12:55,460

I think I have some clothes that look like that already that they'll come out of the washing machine like that before.

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00:12:55,460 --> 00:13:01,460

You don't want to fan out your blue jeans by put those in with as many as it can be kind of corrosive, so be careful with it.

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00:13:01,460 --> 00:13:09,710
Yeah, but just one of the things we're asking and we've asked the county agents in Oklahoma and Missouri and Arkansas,

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00:13:09,710 --> 00:13:13,300
all of you all that you're going to be there to help these individuals.

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00:13:13,300 --> 00:13:17,390
Sure, the individual owner of those birds, they're the guardians of their flock.

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00:13:17,390 --> 00:13:22,130
They're the first line of defense. They may be calling you and then y'all can call us.

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00:13:22,130 --> 00:13:27,500
And because we really want to try to keep this disease out of the state, it creates problems.

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00:13:27,500 --> 00:13:33,560
If a premise is diagnosed with the disease in the birds, they do issue a quarantine.

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00:13:33,560 --> 00:13:38,010
There's a zone of surveillance drawn around it that's 10 kilometers.

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00:13:38,010 --> 00:13:42,320
Every bird inside that zone is for small flocks and commercial birds.

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00:13:42,320 --> 00:13:49,820
They go to all those premises and test the birds, and then there'll be a retest in there and there's rules and regulations that have to be followed.

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00:13:49,820 --> 00:13:57,920
So, yeah, I know Shaun and I what Shaun was. We're having a discussion about that last week about, you know,

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00:13:57,920 --> 00:14:03,890
the last time we had this happen in Arkansas, and he was involved in the testing and stuff in his county.

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00:14:03,890 --> 00:14:11,870

And he was telling me how important it is that if you know, if that does happen, that you do allow, you know,

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00:14:11,870 --> 00:14:19,370

testing to take place on your, your premise, you know, be cooperative with them if if, if they come to test your birds.

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And it's one of those things that you know, fortunately, in many of these instances,

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depending on the number of birds that the flocks that are there, but usually it's a fairly large number inside that surveillance zone.

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Sure. Negative. Now, if another positive block is found, then they draw another 10 kilometers circle around that go from there.

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But it is. It's a highly contagious disease. It is caused by a virus.

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00:14:44,180 --> 00:14:53,540

This one happens to be the Eurasian strain of the H5N1. The mortality on it, we call it high path because it is very pathogenic.

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00:14:53,540 --> 00:14:59,570

We see there have been reports of 60 70 own, up 90 percent, almost a hundred percent.

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00:14:59,570 --> 00:15:02,900

Some of these birds, they they go out and look at them. They look pretty good.

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00:15:02,900 --> 00:15:07,820

And few hours later, they look like they really don't feel good and then they start dying.

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00:15:07,820 --> 00:15:13,190

It is very important that if you have, if you see something.

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00:15:13,190 --> 00:15:21,530

Give us a call. Get some help in there. Yeah. So you were saying about if they do have a bird about what to do about putting in the cooler stuff?

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00:15:21,530 --> 00:15:26,660

So how how soon, how long is that sample good before we can get it to somebody?

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00:15:26,660 --> 00:15:31,280

You know how long? How long do we have before we get that? Sample the lab or something?

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00:15:31,280 --> 00:15:32,030

Well, you want to get it.

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00:15:32,030 --> 00:15:38,960

What they'll do is if you call, they'll get a livestock inspector out there or one of the USDA people as fast they can get there.

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00:15:38,960 --> 00:15:42,980

I think that bird down is going to make it keep a lot better.

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00:15:42,980 --> 00:15:46,580

And they'll still be able to sample it, usually within 24 hours.

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00:15:46,580 --> 00:15:51,530

They should draw people on it. OK. Keeping it cool now when they sample.

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00:15:51,530 --> 00:15:57,910

If you are inside a surveillance zone, they're going to sample a bird by taking an oropharyngeal swab.

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00:15:57,910 --> 00:16:01,730

Okay. It's not like they're going to have to kill the bird. Sure, they will test that bird.

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00:16:01,730 --> 00:16:05,600

It's live. And then on to the last outbreak we had in about 10 days.

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00:16:05,600 --> 00:16:09,950

Two weeks, they come back and retest them and they list, depending on what the rules are now,

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00:16:09,950 --> 00:16:14,840

as far as determined by the all the regulatory officials, how they'll do that.

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00:16:14,840 --> 00:16:22,640

But it is important that you watch birds, you see something, you know, don't go around waterfowl.

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00:16:22,640 --> 00:16:28,700

And if you do, by all means, don't go visit your birds until you clean up and sanitized.

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00:16:28,700 --> 00:16:36,800

That's that's very important. Now I know you have a webinar coming up, I think March 31 for six p.m.

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00:16:36,800 --> 00:16:41,780

Yeah, where where people can join and probably even ask you some questions.

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00:16:41,780 --> 00:16:45,800

If they have questions, I would strongly recommend and encourage you to join.

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00:16:45,800 --> 00:16:46,280

In fact,

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00:16:46,280 --> 00:16:53,990

we have one webinar coming up tomorrow and then we'll have the additional one coming up on the thirty first one Mars in the morning at nine o'clock,

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00:16:53,990 --> 00:17:02,300

the one on the 31st is at six p.m. Probably a lot more convenient for most people to be at six p.m. we will probably have some others,

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00:17:02,300 --> 00:17:06,170

but we just try to get these pushed out fairly quickly on that.

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00:17:06,170 --> 00:17:12,830

We'll try to answer questions on it, go a little bit about the disease and kind of feel everybody in a that said what's going on with it?

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00:17:12,830 --> 00:17:17,840

And then go over some of those biosecurity principles again to try to reinforce that.

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00:17:17,840 --> 00:17:21,260

So any and all are welcome to attend. Sure. Yeah.

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00:17:21,260 --> 00:17:26,990

And we have a ton of information on our website and I know Dr. Clark and I were chatting before we started our podcast.

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00:17:26,990 --> 00:17:30,890

He's got a web page dedicated specifically to this.

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00:17:30,890 --> 00:17:36,650

You can find that at www.uaex.uada.edu

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00:17:36,650 --> 00:17:41,060

And that's our home page. And it's it's front and center right there.

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00:17:41,060 --> 00:17:49,670

When you go to the home page, there's the avian flu page link there and it'll take you right to that page and it's a ton of information right there.

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00:17:49,670 --> 00:17:58,820

So make use of that. I'll I will post a link to that on our web page with this podcast so you can get to that easily.

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00:17:58,820 --> 00:18:05,240

And please do reach out to your local county extension agent. If you don't know your local county extension agent, I encourage you to do that.

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00:18:05,240 --> 00:18:09,380

You can also find that information on our website as well.

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00:18:09,380 --> 00:18:17,400

Join Dr. Clark on the on the upcoming webinar March 31st, 6:00 p.m. You can join him then,

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00:18:17,400 --> 00:18:21,050

so there's a ton of information, a ton of ways to get connected.

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00:18:21,050 --> 00:18:28,190

Just bottom line is make sure you're taking care of your bird, watching your birds and just, you know, Dr. Clark.

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00:18:28,190 --> 00:18:32,000

Just use some good common sense about biosecurity practices. Absolutely.

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00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:36,050

That's the best thing you can do. Yeah, there's nothing rocket science here.

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00:18:36,050 --> 00:18:41,030

We're just trying to make sure we protect our poultry industry because we have a fairly large,

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00:18:41,030 --> 00:18:46,130

not only, you know, backyard hobby flock owners probably don't realize, but you know,

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00:18:46,130 --> 00:18:50,630

we have a, you know, Arkansas was one of the leading poultry producing states in the nation,

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00:18:50,630 --> 00:18:56,690

and it could have a really, really bad ramifications for our commercial growers.

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00:18:56,690 --> 00:19:03,150

Absolutely. It would be a tremendous impact not just to them, but to the entire economy of the state.

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00:19:03,150 --> 00:19:09,260

You know, almost one billion broilers are raised and then about 30 million turkeys.

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00:19:09,260 --> 00:19:14,880

And I can't remember how many eggs for the table egg industry, but we're way up there.

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00:19:14,880 --> 00:19:22,940

We're the top 10 as well on that. So it is a big, big, significant part of the state's economy.

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00:19:22,940 --> 00:19:28,880

Sure. Sure. All right. Well, that's going to do it for this episode of Around the Homestead podcast.

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00:19:28,880 --> 00:19:32,960

Again, Dr. Clark, we appreciate you taking your time to join us. I thank you.

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00:19:32,960 --> 00:19:37,110

We always like having you. You're so knowledgeable about everything.

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00:19:37,110 --> 00:19:45,560

We're going to. I promise I'm not going to try to trade you out for Shaun as my normal co-host, but we like having you on the show.

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00:19:45,560 --> 00:19:51,890

I'm sure he'll be glad to hear that. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. So anyways, we'll see you again.

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00:19:51,890 --> 00:20:02,090

Go to our website. www.uaex.uada.edu to find more information about avian flu, and until next time we'll see you around the farm.

203

00:20:02,090 --> 00:20:08,210

We hope you enjoyed this episode of Around the Homestead podcast to learn more about today's topic.

204

00:20:08,210 --> 00:21:35,667

Be sure to visit our website at www.uaex.uada.edu. Be sure to join us next time on around the Homestead podcast.