



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

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TO: Arkansas Poultry Producers Raising Birds with Outside Access

FROM: Dr. John G. Nilz, State Veterinarian

SUBJECT: Notification and Biosecurity Recommendations Regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Last week, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in an Arkansas commercial poultry operation. Reports indicate that the virus is being carried by certain types of waterfowl within our migratory flyway. This indicates that the affected area could spread.

To mitigate the disease risk from contact with the birds or their droppings the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Division strongly recommends taking the following steps for the next 30 days, especially within our northwest quadrant:

1. Keep your birds indoors or covered to prevent exposure to wild or migratory birds.
2. Restrict access to any source of water that may have been contaminated by wild birds.
3. Implement strict biosecurity on the premises. Alert all farm personnel of the increased risk of HPAI. Especially, focus biosecurity methods on preventing any exposure to wild waterfowl or their droppings.
4. Monitor all flocks for increased mortality or clinical signs and report any concerns to your veterinarian, the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Division at 501-823-1746, or your local Arkansas Cooperative Extension County Agent. You can find your county office here- <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/counties/>.

Please be advised that the next step to control disease may involve a quarantine of your premise, which would mandate the above measure.

For more information on Avian Influenza or Biosecurity, we encourage you to visit the USDA's Defend the flock website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program>.

Your time and efforts to help protect our poultry industries are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Dr. John G. Nilz, DVM
Arkansas State Veterinarian
501-297-2250