

# ALERT!



## Avian Influenza in Kentucky

Information for bird owners

**Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** has been found in Kentucky. It is a contagious disease of birds, typically deadly to domesticated poultry.

### WHAT KINDS OF BIRDS ARE AT RISK?

HPAI is highly contagious and often fatal for domesticated poultry, including **chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese,** and **guinea fowl**. It can be carried by free flying migratory waterfowl, such as ducks, geese, and shorebirds.

### DOES HPAI INFECT PEOPLE?

Properly cooked meat and eggs from birds are safe to eat. Always remember, cooking poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165° F kills bacteria and viruses. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these avian influenza detections do not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States.

### HOW IS HPAI SPREAD?

The disease is spread by direct contact between birds, by coughing and sneezing, and through droppings. People can spread HPAI by moving infected birds, moving contaminated equipment and feed, and by wearing clothing and shoes that have been in infected areas.

### WHAT DOES HPAI LOOK LIKE IN BIRDS?

Some signs of HPAI include sudden death of poultry without clinical signs, respiratory signs (nasal discharge, coughing sneezing), a lack of energy or appetite, decreased water consumption, decreased egg production or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- If you think your birds are sick please immediately call the **Sick Bird Hotline** at: **866-536-7593**
- Keep your birds away from other birds.
- If you visit family or friends with birds, shower, wash your clothes, and change your shoes before handling your birds
- Don't visit them without taking these same steps if you have handled your birds.
- Try to keep people who also own birds from visiting your property
- Share information about HPAI with family and friends



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