



## Situation Report: March 3, 2022

### Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Office of State Veterinarian responds to Avian Influenza in Kentucky

**BACKGROUND:** On Feb. 14, 2022, USDA and state officials announced a confirmed case of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was identified in a single commercial broiler chicken operation in Fulton County, Kentucky, near the Tennessee border.

HPAI is a highly contagious disease that is often fatal to poultry. On Feb. 11, 2022 a commercial chicken operation in Fulton County alerted the Kentucky Department of Agriculture of an increase in poultry deaths. Subsequent testing at the Breathitt Veterinary Center and the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the presence of HPAI in samples taken from the commercial chicken operation.

After the Fulton County premises tested positive, samples from a Webster County turkey flock were also confirmed at the Breathitt Veterinary Center Laboratory and NVSL.

State officials quarantined the affected premises and depopulated the flocks. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) established a 10 kilometer surveillance zone around the detected properties, and began working jointly with state and federal partners on surveillance and testing of commercial and backyard poultry flocks in the area and established an incident command center in Fulton County.

KDA together with the Kentucky Poultry Federation and other industry partners began notifying all poultry owners – backyard owners and commercial producers – to start reviewing their biosecurity measures and keep birds indoors to prevent the spread of high path avian influenza. Poultry owners in the surveillance zones in and around Fulton and Webster counties have additional restrictions.

According to the CDC, the recent detections of HPAI do not present a food safety risk, and as a reminder, poultry and eggs are safe to eat when handled and cooked properly to the appropriate 165° F. There is no risk to the food supply, but birds from the flocks will not enter the food system. No human cases of avian influenza viruses have ever been detected in the United States.

#### **CURRENT SITUATION AS OF 3/3/2022:**

- **No new positive premises have been identified.**

Media Contact:  
Lisa Tolliver  
LisaD.Tolliver@ky.gov



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- Door-to-door surveillance for poultry producers within the 10 kilometer surveillance has been completed. KDA and USDA staff continue backyard surveillance in the control zones.
- Composting at the infected premises has been completed.
- To date, all surveillance sampling in the control zones have had negative test results.
- KDA created an [“Alert” Flyer](#) warning about the presence of Avian Influenza in the state. The flyer was sent to area producers, feed and livestock stores, and other stakeholders within the poultry industry.
- KDA and USDA and industry stakeholders continue to provide outreach to bird enthusiasts to report sick birds and practice good biosecurity to protect the health of Kentucky’s poultry.

**RESOURCES:**

Signs of Avian Influenza: [kyagr.com/HPAI](http://kyagr.com/HPAI)

Avian Influenza Frequently Asked Questions: [kyagr.com/HPAI](http://kyagr.com/HPAI)

Keep up to date on Kentucky’s response and sign up for updates: [kyagr.com/HPAI](http://kyagr.com/HPAI)

Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks: <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>