



Situation Report: Oct. 19, 2022

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

BACKGROUND: On Oct. 7, 2022, USDA and state officials confirmed a case of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a backyard flock of mixed-species birds in Fayette County.

HPAI is known to be deadly for domesticated poultry. On Oct. 5, 2022, a dead bird from a backyard poultry premises in Fayette County submitted to the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory tested presumptive positive for H5 Avian Influenza. The next evening the National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the test in samples from the submitted bird.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) began an investigation upon notification of the positive test results. State officials quarantined the affected premise. Depopulation and disposal at the site was completed. Federal and state partners began working jointly on additional surveillance and testing of backyard poultry flocks in the area.

On Oct. 10, 2022, a dead bird from a backyard poultry premises in Logan County submitted to the Breathitt Veterinary Center Laboratory tested presumptive positive for HPAI. Test results were pending.

Working with the Kentucky Poultry Federation and other industry partners, KDA began notifying all poultry owners – backyard and commercial operators – to keep birds indoors to prevent the spread of high path avian influenza.

The Fayette County case was the third positive HPAI case in Kentucky this year. In February 2022, USDA and state officials announced two confirmed cases of H5N1 in a commercial broiler chicken operation in Fulton County and a commercial turkey operation in Webster County. Federal and state partners worked jointly to eradicate the disease from these two premises to meet the World Organization of Animal Health's freedom from disease for avian influenza designation in May. The October cases are not linked to the February outbreaks. State and federal animal health officials continue to complete surveillance and eradication efforts to meet the freedom from disease designation after new detections in October.

Avian influenza does not present a food safety risk; poultry and eggs are safe to eat when handled and cooked properly. There is no risk to the food supply, but birds and eggs from the flocks will not enter the food system. No human cases of avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States.

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CURRENT SITUATION AS OF 10/19/2022:

- Logan County premise HPAI test was confirmed positive by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory.
- The Logan County site was quarantined. Depopulation and disposal was completed on Oct 14.
- Area surveillance around the Logan County premise was completed.
- Fayette County and Logan County premises are still under quarantine.
- Fayette County control area to be released Oct. 22 if no additional detections are found in the area.
- If there are no further detections, Kentucky will meet the World Animal Health Organization freedom from disease criteria on Nov. 5.

RESOURCES:

Signs of Avian Influenza: kyagr.com/HPAI

Avian Influenza Frequently Asked Questions: kyagr.com/HPAI

Keep up to date on Kentucky's response and sign up for updates: kyagr.com/HPAI

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