

December 11, 2025

To: Kentucky Poultry Producers Raising Birds with Outside Access
From: Dr. Steve Velasco

Subject: Notification and Biosecurity Recommendations Regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continues to be detected across the United States. Currently HPAI has been detected in Kentucky in wild waterfowl and in a niche domestic poultry commercial egg layer facility where the hens have outdoor access. For the latest information on the Kentucky HPAI incident visit www.kyagr.com/HPAI and for the latest National HPAI detections visit the USDA HPAI National Backyard Commercial Flocks website.

Reports indicate that the virus is being carried by certain types of wild migratory waterfowl. Flocks in the Commonwealth that may come in contact with wild migratory waterfowl, or their droppings are at a high risk of contracting HPAI.

To mitigate disease risk, **for the next 60 days, we strongly recommend the** following steps to be taken for the protection of flocks with outside access:

1. Keep birds indoors to prevent poultry flocks from coming into contact with wild or migratory birds. Restrict poultry access to any source of water that may have been contaminated by wild birds.
2. Implement strict biosecurity on the premises. Alert all farm personnel of the increased risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Especially, focus biosecurity methods on preventing any exposure to wild waterfowl or their droppings.
3. Monitor all flocks for increased mortality or clinical signs, report any concerns to your veterinarian or to the Office of State Veterinarian.

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

For more information on Avian Influenza or Biosecurity, we encourage you to visit the USDA's Defend the flock website.

Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



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