

March 21, 2022

Avian Influenza Update and Biosecurity Advisory

To: California Poultry Producers

The risk of diseases entering flocks is always present but can be mitigated. Enhanced biosecurity is critical in the face of ongoing disease outbreaks and the wild bird migration season. *Eurasian strain H5N1 has been detected in wild birds in the Pacific flyway. There have been 38 incidents of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1 Eurasian strain) detected in backyard and commercial domesticated birds and hundreds of incidents of HPAI detected in wild birds in numerous states in the United States (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>).* Continued reports of the current Avian Influenza outbreak in the U.S. are concerning because of the similarities to the spread of HPAI H5N8 in the 2014-2015 outbreak and the devastating effect of current outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in Europe where the virus has caused substantial poultry losses.

To protect your flocks, we are requesting that you separate poultry from wild birds if you can. As much as possible, house poultry inside and discourage any interaction with wild birds, particularly migrating waterfowl.

The risk to each farm may be different, so it is important to consider your situation when complying with this request. If you are certified organic and want to make changes to housing, you must contact your certifier *before* altering confinement and meet their requirements to remain certified. This heightened biosecurity effort will be important through the end of June 2022 when migration typically ends, and warmer weather begins. Thank you for your cooperation.

For more information about Avian Influenza, please visit:
www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/avianinfluenza

Sincerely,

Dr. Annette Jones
State Veterinarian
California Department of Food and Agriculture

