

October 15, 2021

Avian Influenza Update and Biosecurity Advisory

To: California Poultry Producers

The risk of diseases entering your flock is always present but can be mitigated. Enhanced biosecurity is critical in the face of ongoing disease outbreaks and the wild bird migration season. There have been four incidents of low pathogenic avian influenza detected in domestic poultry this year in Northern California (three farms and one store selling poultry). Continued reports of the current Avian Influenza outbreak in Europe are also concerning because of the similarities to the spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N8 in the 2014-2015 outbreak that occurred here in the United States.

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 May 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

