



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

October 30, 2023

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Update and Biosecurity Advisory (Outdoor Access Exemption Request)

To: California Organic Certifiers

Over the past month, detections of HPAI resurged in both domestic and wild birds nationally. In California, as of October 25, 2023, there has been one new detection of HPAI in domestic flocks. Based on current disease surveillance and epidemiology, wild waterfowl and raptors remain the largest threat of Eurasian H5N1 introduction to domestic poultry in California. The risk of disease entering domestic poultry flocks is always present but is heightened during waterfowl migration. Enhanced biosecurity is critical in the face of ongoing disease outbreaks and wild bird carrier exposure.

To protect California flocks, we continue to request that poultry producers separate their poultry from wild birds if possible. This action is particularly important if there is ANY water in the vicinity that may attract and congregate wild waterfowl. We recommend housing poultry inside and discouraging any interaction with wild birds, particularly migrating or resident waterfowl and raptors.

Because of the recent case in California poultry production and epidemiologic evidence that this strain was introduced by wild birds, **we ask that Organic Certifiers permit California producers to move their birds indoors through June 2024**; and exempt the outdoor access requirement to remain certified during this time. We will continue to assess the threat over the next couple of months and rescind this recommendation if the situation changes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. 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

