



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

October 26, 2023

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Update and Biosecurity Advisory

To: California Poultry Producers

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 of birds. 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 your flocks, we continue to request that you separate poultry from wild birds if you can. 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, and because cooler months are most frequently the time of year when spill over into domestic poultry occurs, **we ask that California producers move their birds indoors through June 2024.**

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 should contact your certifier *before* altering confinement and meet their requirements to remain certified. Over the next several months we will continue to assess the threat and rescind this recommendation if the situation changes. 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

