



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

December 9, 2016

To: Poultry Producers in California

Winter “avian flu” season is here so please continue to invest in biosecurity in order to protect your flocks, your business, and the California economy.

We know that wild birds are a reservoir for several catastrophic poultry diseases, including the strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) that resulted in the destruction of all poultry on over 200 farms in the United States in 2015. While we have not yet detected HPAI in California this year, it was detected in August in Alaska just as birds were starting to migrate south. Plus, we have recently detected low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) in wild water fowl in California. As a reminder, certain strains of LPAI can have devastating impacts on domestic flocks, and like HPAI, will trigger a regulatory emergency response when domestic flocks become infected.

Because of these recent detections and the fact that we are in the beginning of California’s typical “avian flu” season, where possible, please keep your birds separated from wild birds and their droppings. That means, do your best to keep them under covered roofs and discourage any interaction with wild birds, particularly migrating waterfowl. Please continue this heightened biosecurity effort through next April when migration tends to be complete. The risk to every farm may be different, so it will be important to consider your particular risks when complying with this request.

It is also important to remember that if you alter your confinement and you are certified organic, you must contact your certifier *before* altering confinement and meet their requirements in order to remain certified.

Sincerely,

Annette Jones, D.V.M.  
State Veterinarian and Director

