



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

June 1, 2026

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Update

To: California Poultry Producers

Over the past couple of months, California has not had any detections of HPAI in commercial/backyard poultry flocks and minimal detections in wildlife. California met the criteria to self-declare free from HPAI in poultry on April 17, 2026. At this time, we feel it is safe to allow outdoor access for poultry (as required for organic certification) with proper biosecurity measures in place. If possible, the use of netting or barriers for producers to prevent their birds from interacting with wild birds is highly encouraged. This action is particularly important if there is ANY water in the vicinity that may attract and congregate wild waterfowl. The risk of disease entering domestic poultry flocks is always present.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will reach out again if we feel there is an increased threat.

The risk to each farm may be different, so it is important to consider your situation.

If you would like to request an outdoor exemption letter (continuance to confine birds), please send a request in writing via e-mail to felicia.pohl@cdfa.ca.gov. It is requested that you provide justification with documentation and maps that states why your farm(s) is/are at elevated risk. You are also welcome to complete the [Poultry Facility Biosecurity Risk Assessment Guide](#) to see if any other risk factors may qualify you for an exemption letter. Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing.

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Murray, DVM, MPVM, PhD
State Veterinarian
California Department of Food and Agriculture

