



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

October 7, 2026

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Update and Biosecurity Advisory

To: California Poultry Producers

Over the past two months, California has had detections of HPAI in backyard poultry flocks and in wild waterfowl and raptors along the Pacific Flyway. Updates for California poultry specifically can be found on our [Avian Influenza Website](#). Detections of HPAI continue to also be found in domestic and wild birds nationally ([USDA APHIS H5N1 Influenza Detections](#)). After multiple years of repeat outbreaks wild waterfowl and raptors remain the largest threats of H5N1 introduction to domestic poultry in California. The risk of disease entering domestic poultry flocks is always present but at elevated risk right now due to waterfowl migration.

To protect your flocks, we recommend that poultry producers separate poultry from wild birds by keeping them indoors and discouraging any interaction with wild birds, particularly migrating or resident waterfowl and raptors. This action is particularly important if there is ANY water or agricultural fields in the vicinity that may attract and congregate wild waterfowl.

We ask that California producers continue to keep their birds indoors through December 31st, 2026.

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. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

Sincerely,

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State Veterinarian
California Department of Food and Agriculture

