



Highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N8) was recently detected in migrating waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway in the Western United States. Fortunately, this strain does not infect humans. However, commercial and backyard poultry raised near areas commonly used by migrating waterfowl are at risk.

Waterfowl are reservoirs for Avian Influenza (AI) strains. Some of these strains can be fatal to domestic poultry, yet show little to no signs in waterfowl.

Because many waterfowl species migrate in the fall and spring crossing many borders, the risk of transmission of AI to backyard and commercial poultry increases during this time. During migration periods, one should consider the risks waterfowl pose and what can be done to reduce these risks:

- One high risk practice is having a pond or other body of water that can attract waterfowl to or near your facility. Discourage the use of such ponds by waterfowl.
- Consider draining ponds if feasible. Avoid on-farm traffic patterns that cross waterways.
- Provide housing to confine domestic poultry and/or enclose an exercise area with netting.
- Avoid use of water that comes from sources where waterfowl may congregate during migration.
- Ideally, producers and employees should avoid waterfowl hunting during migration. Otherwise, ensure clothing, footwear, vehicles, etc. used during hunts are laundered and/or disinfected.



Other biosecurity practices that can reduce the risk of AI transmission include:

- Permitting only essential workers and vehicles on the premises
- Providing disposable coveralls, boots and head coverings for visitors
- Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting vehicles and equipment entering or leaving the premises
- Avoiding visits to other poultry operations
- Prohibiting employees from owning or associating with other birds for any purposes
- Providing biosecurity training to employees
- Protecting flocks from exposure to wild birds, rodents and insects
- Controlling movement associated with the disposal of mortality, litter and manure

Contact Information	
CDFA Modesto District	(209) 491-9350
CDFA Ontario District	(909) 947-4462
CDFA Redding District	(530) 225-2140
CDFA Tulare District	(559) 685-3500
CDFA Sacramento (Headquarters)	(916) 900-5002
USDA-VS Toll Free	(877) 741-3690

If you observe signs of illness or increased mortality of wild waterfowl, please call:

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Wildlife Investigations Laboratory 916-358-2790**

Any poultry or domestic bird calls can be directed to:

**Sick Bird Hotline at 866-922-2473  
(or your local CDFA Animal Health Branch/USDA Office)**