

How To Protect Your Flock from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

How the Virus Spreads

Avian influenza is a highly contagious and often fatal disease in birds. The viral spread is promoted by wild birds, especially in wild waterfowl such as ducks and geese, but many other wild bird species can be a source of spread as well. The disease is also spread through movement of infected or exposed birds, direct or indirect contact with infected wild and domestic birds or contact with virus on fomites (surfaces) such as hands, shoes, clothing, or feet and fur of rodents and other animals.



Here are some biosecurity recommendations to help protect your flock:

- Wash hands before & after handling birds.
- Use dedicated footwear when caring for your outdoor birds.
- Prevent contact between domestic and wild birds by bringing your birds into a covered enclosure.
- Consider draining bodies of water such as ponds on your property to avoid attracting wild birds.
- Provide sanitized well or city water for your birds.
- Prevent pets such as cats & dogs from eating dead wild birds.
- Keep feed covered and spills cleaned up to avoid attracting wild birds and rodents.
- Clean and disinfect equipment between uses. Do not share equipment or supplies with neighbors.
- Clean and disinfect your shoes and vehicle tires after visiting feedstores and other places frequented by other poultry owners or wild bird hunters.
- While not recommended, if you handle dead wild birds, use disposable gloves (or a plastic bag turned inside out) to place the body in a garbage bag and spray the outside with a disinfectant.

Know the Signs and Know Who to Call

Clinical signs of HPAI include sudden death, trouble breathing, clear runny discharge (from nose, mouth, and eyes), lethargy, decreased food and water intake, swelling (eyes, head, wattles, or combs), discolored or bruised comb, wattles, or legs, stumbling/falling or twisted neck.

Poultry owners with flocks that have experienced any unusual/suspicious illness or deaths should call our **CDFA Sick Bird Hotline** at **866-922-BIRD (2473)**.

Please report any unusual or suspicious dead wild birds to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

