

NOW IS THE TIME TO **PROTECT YOUR FLOCK AGAINST AVIAN FLU**

The highly contagious and deadly avian influenza (HPAI) is a catastrophic disease in commercial poultry and small flocks. In April, HPAI was confirmed in commercial poultry in Pennsylvania for the first time since the 1983-84 outbreak. The disease still presents a high-level threat.

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

Here's the good news. Despite multiple HPAI infections reported earlier this year, as of July 14, 2022, all HPAI Control Areas within Pennsylvania have been released.

Here's the bad news. We're not out of the woods yet. HPAI is still circulating in other states. When the wild waterfowl migrate in the fall, there is a high risk for poultry flocks in Pennsylvania to again be in danger of HPAI.

PROTECTION STARTS WITH BIOSECURITY

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, follow it.

 **Keep visitors to a minimum.** Farm visitors pose a risk, especially if they have been on other farms with poultry. Restrict access to your property and poultry and post a biosecurity sign. Have a specific area where visitors can enter. Only allow people who take care of your poultry to come in contact with your birds. Visitors should wear clean footwear (disposable boots) and clean clothes. Designate an area for visitors to change clothes. Require and teach biosecurity to family, employees, and all visitors coming into, or involved with, your poultry production area.

 **Keep it clean.** Follow biosecurity procedures for cleanliness. Wear personal protective equipment or clothing and shoes that you only use when caring for your poultry. This includes boot covers or boots that can be disinfected. Change into fresh protective gear between poultry houses or coops. Wash hands thoroughly.

Keep equipment and vehicles clean and insist that all equipment and vehicles are cleaned and disinfected before entering your property.

 **Don't haul disease home.** If you, your employees, or family have been on other farms, or other places where there is livestock and/or poultry, clean and disinfect your vehicle tires and equipment before returning home. Always change clothes, disinfect footwear, and wash hands before returning to your flock.

 **Don't borrow disease from your neighbor.** DO NOT share equipment, tools, or other supplies with your neighbors or other livestock or poultry owners. Farm equipment that has been in contact with manure can be a source of infection. If you do share equipment with other farms, make sure it has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before it reaches your property.

 **Watch for signs of disease.** Be on the lookout for unusual signs of behavior, severe illness and/or sudden deaths. Assess the health of your flock daily. Early detection is important to prevent the spread of disease.

 **Report sick animals.** Don't wait! Report serious or unusual animal health problems to your veterinarian, local extension office, or Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA).



717-772-2852

**Pennsylvania Department of
Agriculture emergency number**
*(Press option 1 to reach the
veterinarian on call.)*



For more information, resources, and the latest developments in the fight against HPAI, go to the Penn State Extension web page at extension.psu.edu/avian-influenza

Stay informed



**If you suspect
HPAI in your flock**

Call the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture hotline immediately at 717-722-2852, option 1. Do not move the birds. There is no penalty for calling and testing for surveillance is free.