

Prevent exposure to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus in your Poultry Flock

Wild fowl can carry disease
keep them away from your flock.



The MA Department of Agricultural Resources and its partner agencies have depopulated and disposed of two non-commercial, mixed-species backyard flocks (non-poultry), one in Barnstable County and one in Essex County, due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). A (poultry) flock located in Essex County has also been depopulated and disposed of due to HPAI. Birds on the affected premises exhibited clinical signs consistent with HPAI and tested positive for the disease.

The MDAR is advising backyard and commercial poultry owners to practice strong biosecurity measures to prevent domestic poultry from having contact with wild birds, their feathers, and droppings. The HPAI virus is continuing to circulate in the wild bird population, particularly in wild waterfowl. Eliminating standing water and preventing domestic birds from having access to ponds, streams, and wetland areas that attract wild waterfowl is of critical importance. Letting your flock "free range" poses substantial risk of exposure to HPAI. The consequences can be deadly.

What can poultry owners do to mitigate the risk of introducing HPAI into their flocks?

Practicing flock biosecurity and preventing poultry from co-mingling with wild waterfowl are two of the best actions you can practice to keep your flock healthy.

Biosecurity practices can prevent disease from entering your flock. Keep your birds inside a building. If the birds use an outside enclosure, be sure that it is covered with netting to prevent wild birds from flying into it. It is important to make simple daily biosecurity practices a habit. Keep a dedicated pair of footwear that is only worn when caring for your flock OR use a bucket and brush with disinfectant to scrub the soles of your footwear prior to entering the poultry house. Do not allow poultry to free range. This increases the risk of contact with wild waterfowl or their droppings. Prevent waterfowl from accessing ponds, waterways, and wetlands on the property.

www.mass.gov/info-details/poultry-program

Information on mitigating water access is available here

www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/fsc-hpai-wildlife-practices-reduce.pdf



MDAR's biosecurity for poultry resources are available in

English,



Español,



Português,



简体中文,



Tiếng Việt,



عربي



Visit USDA's 2022-2023 HPAI Detection Page for information on cases in Wild birds, Domestic Poultry and Mammals



Reports of sick or dead domestic poultry? What to do?

When you receive a report of sick or dead domestic poultry please call 617-626-1795 or the flock owner can use the online Poultry Disease Reporting Form



Once the department receives the report, someone from Animal Health will call the flock owner to get a history and determine if testing for HPAI is warranted.

