



Agriculture

Agriculture & Food Operations
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Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer

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Dear Producers,

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) cases continue to be reported in US and Canada. As bird migration ramps up, the risk for additional cases is expected to continue. HPAI is a reportable disease under the federal Health of Animals Act and CFIA will respond to all cases. Part of this response will include **movement controls that may impact your farming operations if you have poultry on site** regardless of your poultry being infected or not. This can include permitting and cleaning and disinfection requirements for all vehicles entering or leaving a premise that houses poultry including farm machinery, feed deliveries, livestock transport and milk pick up etc.

Avian Influenza (AI) is a contagious viral infection that can affect several species of food producing birds as well as pet birds and wild birds. Wild birds, especially waterfowl, are natural reservoirs of the disease and may transmit the disease without showing clinical signs. Clinical signs of the disease include:

- Sudden death
- Lack of energy, movement, or appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Swelling and discolouration around head, neck, or eyes
- Nervous signs, tremors, or lack of coordination
- Coughing, gasping for air, or sneezing
- Diarrhea

Prevention is best achieved through stringent biosecurity measures that prevent contact with wild birds and their excrement.

For questions on how Avian Influenza may impact you, please contact your regional Agriculture Extension Coordinator: <https://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/regional-services/>

For more information on Avian Influenza and the control measures that may impact you, please view the small flock webinar posted on the Biosecurity NS website under the resources tab:

<https://biosecuritynovascotia.com/livestock/>

Additional Resources:

<https://biosecuritynovascotia.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2022/03/Poultry-Biosecurity-Self-Assessment.pdf>

<https://novascotia.ca/agri/documents/lab-services/Avian-Influenza-Fact-Sheet-Feb-18-2022.pdf>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/eng/1323990856863/1323991018946>

[Distribution of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5 and H5N1 in North America, 2021/2022 | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov/monitoring-assessments/avian-influenza/)