

BIOSECURITY MEASURES

- Allow only essential personnel to access your property and your birds. Disinfect any vehicles that enter your farm.
- Don't lend or borrow equipment from other farms. Bring only cleaned and disinfected items into your bird area.
- Avoid contact with other poultry. If you cannot avoid contact, change clothes and shoes before working with your own birds.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before entering your bird area.
- Use footbaths when entering or leaving your bird housing (change disinfectant frequently)—or wear disposable boot covers.
- Keep poultry separate from wild birds. Don't let them share water sources or have access to common areas frequented by wild birds.
- Eliminate standing water on your farm and clean up feed spills to avoid attracting wild birds.



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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRIES



AVIAN INFLUENZA

A THREAT TO ALABAMA POULTRY



WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA?

Avian Influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and is carried by free flying waterfowl such as ducks, geese and shorebirds.

AI viruses can be classified as Highly pathogenic (HPAI) or low pathogenic (LPAI) based on the severity of illness caused. HPAI spreads very quickly and is often fatal in chickens and turkeys.

One of the most important things you can do to protect your birds is to follow good biosecurity. If you see signs of illness in your birds, report it immediately. Together, these actions will help keep HPAI from infecting U.S. poultry flocks.



REPORT SICK BIRDS

- Decreased water consumption
- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft- or thin-shelled, misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs
- Ruffled feathers, listlessness, lethargy

WHAT ARE HEALTH RISKS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, avian influenza detections in poultry do not present an immediate public health concern. However, it is important to remember, proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 °F kills bacteria and viruses.

