

What is **Avian Influenza?**

Avian influenza (AI) is a viral disease that mainly infects birds. Some migratory birds, waterfowl, and shore birds are natural carriers. AI affects chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, waterfowl, swans, peafowl and guinea fowl.

Looking for More Information?

USDA, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

402-434-2300
aphis.usda.gov

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

nda.nebraska.gov

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/diseases.aspx



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Nebraska Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Protection

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Avian Influenza

Biosecurity Pays!

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Why Should I Care About Avian Influenza (AI)?

There are two forms of AI: low path (LPAI) and high path (HPAI). While LPAI rarely, if ever, causes disease in birds, HPAI can cause severe infection. Under some circumstances, LPAI can mutate into a HPAI form. Although disease experts say human cases are rare, individuals who are in direct contact with infected birds or their droppings may be susceptible to the disease in human form. A single case of AI in Nebraska could affect the livelihood of all Nebraska poultry producers. Testing sick birds for AI will help identify if the disease is present and will allow an immediate response that will minimize the impact to human health and the economy.

Signs and Symptoms of HPAI

- Decrease in egg production
- Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, combs, and wattles
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Respiratory signs: coughing, sneezing and respiratory distress
- Unstable coordination
- Sudden death

What is Backyard Biosecurity?

The three-step process called “backyard biosecurity” means doing everything you can to keep diseases out of your flock.

Step 1: Protect your birds. Keep everything that comes in contact with your birds clean.

Prevent disease from reaching your property. Keep avian and human visitors away from your flock as exposure to wild birds or pet birds can introduce diseases. Keep equipment, tools, cars, shoes and hands disinfected.

Showing birds can also introduce diseases, so keep them separate from the flock for two weeks after you bring them home.

New birds should be kept separate from the flock for 30 days. These routine precautions will help reduce the risk to your flock.

Step 2: Know the warning signs and symptoms of infections and bird disease.

Step 3: Report sick birds by calling NDA at 800-831-0550 or your veterinarian.