



Avian Influenza in Idaho

Information for bird owners

Avian influenza (AI) is a virus which can infect all birds. Domesticated birds may become infected through direct contact with infected waterfowl or other infected poultry, or through contact with surfaces that have been contaminated with the viruses.

Two different strains:

*Both strains can occur naturally in wild migratory waterfowl.

- **Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)** – these virus strains are deadly to domestic poultry and can spread rapidly from flock to flock. This is a **reportable** disease. Disease can be slow and mild in waterfowl.
- **Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI)** – these virus strains are most likely to be carried by wild migratory waterfowl and shorebirds without causing illness. LPAI can infect domestic poultry. Symptoms are usually milder.

How is HPAI Spread?

- HPAI is spread by direct contact between birds, by coughing and sneezing and through poop.
- People can spread HPAI by moving infected birds, moving contaminated equipment and feed, and by wearing clothing and shoes that have been in contact with infected birds.

Symptoms Include:

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of head, comb, eyelid, wattles and hocks
- Purple discoloration of wattles, comb and legs
- Nasal discharge, coughing and sneezing
- Incoordination

Report Sick Birds

- If you have multiple sick or dying birds, call a local veterinarian, or refer to ISDA's avian influenza flow chart for reporting guidance.
- The avian influenza flow chart and bird owner reporting form can be found at agri.idaho.gov.

Poultry owners and growers are encouraged to always practice good biosecurity to prevent the spread of AI. Visit agri.idaho.gov for more information.