



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

Avian Influenza Update

February 13, 2025

Since July 2022, there have been multiple backyard flocks in Florida confirmed with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). In addition, HPAI has been detected in wild birds in multiple states along the eastern seaboard, including Florida.

For more information on avian influenza and the current situation, visit the USDA website at [USDA avian influenza](#).

All 50 states in the United States, have confirmed at least one domestic poultry flock infected with HPAI since the outbreak began in 2022. For the current list of affected states, please visit the USDA website at: [USDA APHIS | 2022-23 Confirmations of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial and Backyard Flocks](#).

Due to the recent Avian Influenza detection, it is recommended that Florida poultry producers and enthusiasts (commercial and backyard) take the following precautions to minimize the risk of introduction of influenza into our Florida poultry flocks. For more information regarding avian health please visit: [USDA APHIS | Avian Health](#).

1. Implement strict biosecurity measures on all poultry premises.
 - Alert all company personnel, growers, farmworkers, and service personnel of the increased risk of HPAI.
 - Focus biosecurity methods on preventing any exposure to wild waterfowl or their droppings.
 - Always keep current biosecurity, especially relating to essential visitors and entry biosecurity.
2. Avoid any contact with wild birds of any kind, especially waterfowl, their habitat, or their droppings.
3. Take the necessary precautions around any congregation points for growers or backyard owners – do not bring disease back to your poultry flock.
4. Monitor all flocks for increased mortality or clinical signs consistent with HPAI and report any concerns immediately. To date, the consistent clinical sign in all the current reported cases has been a marked, rapid increase in mortality over several days.

5. Consider making a contingency plan for moving outdoor poultry into bio-secure housing.
6. For more information regarding reporting sick domestic birds, please visit: [Report Sick Birds](#).
7. To report sick or dead wild birds, please visit: <https://app.myfwc.com/FWRI/AvianMortality/>.

If you have any questions, please contact the FDACS, Division of Animal Industry, at (850) 410-0900. Please visit our website for additional information regarding Avian Influenza and the requirements for moving poultry into the state at <https://www.fdacs.gov/AvianInfluenza>.

BACKGROUND:

Avian Influenza viruses are classified by proteins of the virus: “H” proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16), and “N” proteins, of which there are nine (N1–N9). Many different combinations of “H” and “N” proteins are possible. Like all influenza viruses, Avian Influenza viruses are known to easily re-assort and mutate (to change) into new Avian Influenza subtypes. They can even change in their ability to infect within a subtype. Only H7 and H5 subtypes have been found to change from Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) to HPAI.

Avian Influenza (LPAI) normally resides in the North American wild bird population. Wild waterfowl (ducks, geese, and shorebirds) are known to be carriers of the virus. They do not get sick but spread the virus wherever they go. Any contact with wild birds of any kind, especially waterfowl, their habitat, or their droppings, should be avoided. The virus is shed in the droppings and by direct contact.

Florida is associated with both the Mississippi and Atlantic migratory flyways.

Additional Avian Influenza Information: Center for Disease Control and Prevention: [Recent Bird Flu Infections in U.S. Wild Birds and Poultry Pose a Low Risk to the Public](#)

Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission: [Avian Influenza | FWC \(myfwc.com\)](#).

USDA: [USDA APHIS | Avian Influenza](#)

United States Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center: [Avian Influenza](#)