

February 28, 2022

Dear Iowa Poultry Producer,

There have been numerous cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) within the United States this past month. Events have included outbreaks in large commercial facilities and small backyard operations, in addition to detections in hunter harvested wild birds. The outbreaks and detections extend along the east coast and as far west as Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan.

These recent HPAI events amplify the need to review your biosecurity plan and practices. All poultry producers should have an up-to-date biosecurity plan to protect your flock.

At a minimum, biosecurity practices should include the following:

- Ensuring wild birds do not have direct or indirect contact with poultry;
- Cleaning up feed spills to avoid attracting wild birds; and
- When entering a poultry building, ensure nothing is tracked-in that could have been from or in contact with a wild bird.

Producers should also consider limiting or restricting poultry access to the outdoors, when appropriate.

Early detection and control are critical to stopping the spread of HPAI. Producers should monitor animals closely and contact their veterinarian and state (515-281-5305) or federal (866-536-7593) animal health officials immediately if a sick animal or clinical signs consistent with HPAI are observed. Clinical signs that could be associated with HPAI include, but are not limited to:

- sudden death;
- decreased water and feed consumption;
- lack of energy and appetite;
- decreased egg production;
- gasping for air;
- diarrhea;
- purple discoloration of the wattles-comb-legs; and
- coughing sneezing and/or nasal discharge.



Dr. Jeff Kaisand
State Veterinarian