
STATE OF MONTANA

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MEMORANDUM

From: Dr. Marty Zaluski, Administrator & State Veterinarian

Subject: Avian Influenza Update and Biosecurity Advisory

Effective Date: March 3, 2022

The Montana Department of Livestock is advising Montana poultry producers about enhanced biosecurity measures for poultry in light of the diagnosis of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds and domestic poultry flocks in 9 states to date in 2022.

HPAI is concerning for several reasons:

- Outbreaks are often associated with mortality rates that approach 100% in domestic poultry.
- The potential for human infection, although to date no human cases have been associated with the recent outbreaks.
- Significant economic and trade impacts, including import restrictions, that result when HPAI is present in an area.

Direct contact with infected birds, contaminated objects/equipment, and aerosol (short distances) can spread the virus which is found in feces, saliva, and respiratory secretions. Therefore, an essential element of any biosecurity program is avoiding contact between domestic poultry and other birds.

To protect flocks, we request producers separate domestic poultry from wild birds. As much as possible, house poultry inside and discourage any interaction with wild birds, particularly migrating waterfowl.

The risk to each farm may be different, so it is important to consider your situation when complying with this request. If you are certified organic and want to make changes to housing, you must contact your certifier *before* altering confinement and meet their requirements to remain certified. This heightened biosecurity effort will be important through the end of May 2022 when migration typically ends, and warmer weather begins. Thank you for your cooperation.

For more information about Avian Influenza, please visit:
www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/defend-the-flock-hpai