



Signs of Avian Influenza

Avian influenza is a virus that affects bird populations. There are many different strains of avian influenza that cause varying degrees of illness in birds. The most common types of avian influenza are routinely detected in wild birds and cause little concern. Highly Pathogenicity or “high path” Avian Influenza (HPAI) is often fatal in chickens and turkeys. HPAI spreads rapidly and has a high death rate in birds.

Identifying Infected Birds

Birds infected with the HPAI virus may show one or more of the following signs:

- 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; or
- Diarrhea.

Biosecurity Measures on the Farm

Veterinarians should work with poultry producers to strengthen biosecurity practices. Recommended biosecurity measures include

- Establishing an “all-in, all-out” flock-management policy;
- Preventing exposure to wild birds or water or ground contaminated by wild birds;
- Closing bird areas to nonessential personnel or vehicles;
- Providing employees with clean clothing and disinfection facilities and directions for their use;
- Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting equipment and vehicles (including tires and undercarriage) when entering or leaving the farm;
- Avoiding the borrowing or lending of equipment or vehicles; and
- Limiting visits to other poultry farms, exhibitions, fairs, and sales or swap meets (if visits must occur, change footwear and clothing on their return);

Sick bird hotline

Sick or dead farm birds can be reported to USDA toll-free at **1-866-536-7593**.

Keep up to date on Kentucky’s response by visiting: <https://www.kyagr.com/statevet/HPAI.html>

