Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed in the United States. Introduced by migrating wild birds, HPAI risk increases during spring and fall migration, and can affect all domestic poultry: small and urban flocks and commercial industries.

Poultry with HPAI do not survive the illness. Vaccines for HPAI are not readily available.

Signs of Avian Influenza:
- Extreme depression
- Very quiet
- Difficulty breathing
- Decrease in feed or water intake
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle, and hocks
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden unexplained death

What can you do? Biosecurity is your best option to prevent HPAI from entering your small or urban poultry flock.

Protect Your Small Flock from Avian Influenza

1. **Avoid** contact and shared spaces between wild birds and waterfowl with your poultry. Song birds, sparrows, starlings, etc. are low risk.
   - Cover and enclose outdoor feeding areas
   - Keep feed contained
   - Feed in the coop
   - Clean up feed spills
   - Reduce puddles and standing water.
   - Avoid visiting ponds and streams, especially with pets.

2. **Limit or halt** travel with your birds to sales, shows, and swaps.
   - Ensure you have clean hands, clothes, and footwear before handling your birds if you attend events. Do not allow others to handle your birds.

3. **Limit your birds' visitors.**
   - If someone must visit your birds:
     - Discuss where they have been.
     - Have them wash their hands and wear clean clothes and footwear.

Call your veterinarian if your flock shows signs of influenza or you suspect exposure. No veterinarian? Call Minnesota Avian Influenza Hotline at 833-454-0156.
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1. Avoid contact and shared spaces between wild birds and waterfowl with your poultry. Song birds, sparrows, starlings, etc. are low risk. Cover and enclose outdoor feeding areas. Keep feed contained. Clean up feed spills. Reduce puddles and standing water. Avoid visiting ponds and streams, especially with pets. (Graphic: coop with chickens inside and outside in an enclosed, covered area. Feed bag spilling on the ground is crossed out, and a covered can for feed has a green checkmark to show the right way to store feed. Waterfowl on pond and dog next to it is crossed out.)

2. Limit or halt travel with your birds to sales, shows and swaps. Ensure you have clean hands, clothes, and footwear before handling your birds if you attend events. Do not allow others to handle your birds. (Graphic: Chickens in a car is crossed out.)

3. Limit your birds’ visitors. If someone must visit your birds, discuss where they have been, have them wash their hands and wear clean clothes and footwear. (Graphic: Flock owner stopping visitors from crossing into the area where chickens are kept. dotted line between people and chickens has a green checkmark.)

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