
Division of Food Safety and Animal Protection

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To: All Illinois Poultry Producers

Highly pathogenic avian influenza continues to pose a threat to the poultry industry globally. Outbreaks are already on the rise this month in wild waterfowl and domestic poultry throughout the United States.

As the state veterinarian and the official state agency of the NPIP, I strongly encourage all producers to move all birds indoors to prevent contact with wild birds or their droppings. This will help you do your part to protect the health of your birds and the industry. Additionally, I encourage you to review your biosecurity plan and implement the highest level of security possible. You need to ensure that feed and water cannot be contaminated by wild birds. Consider implementing hazing protocols to discourage wild waterfowl from congregating on the premises.

Please report any increase in mortality or abnormal clinical signs to our office or the USDA immediately. A significant decrease in water and feed consumption has been an early indicator in the affected flocks, so we encourage you to monitor this as well.

Federal, state, and producer partners must work together to protect our poultry industry. Thank you for your efforts and continued partnership as we face this challenge.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Ernst

State Veterinarian
Division of Food Safety and Animal Protection
Illinois Department of Agriculture