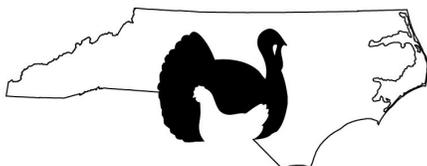


### NORTH CAROLINA HPAI TEAM



Prepare. Contain. Protect.

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

### Prepare, Contain, Protect

By Dr. Mandy Tolson, NCDA&CS

Many states have seen devastating losses since December 2014 due to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus. As fall approaches we are concerned about the possibility of HPAI arriving in North Carolina. Hopefully we will not experience this disease in our state, but NCDA&CS Emergency Programs has worked closely with all of our partners to be prepared to contain this virus if it does arrive in our state. This strain of HPAI has not been shown to affect humans but its effects on poultry, especially domestic turkeys and chickens, is severe and swift.

We are striving to protect our industry and backyard flocks through education, biosecurity and vigilance. Our state veterinarian, Dr. Meckes, has asked all backyard poultry owners to register their flocks. This registration process

is quick and easy and for their protection. Anyone with domestic poultry is asked to register so NCDA&CS can keep owners updated on HPAI-related information and prepare them now and if we were to see this deadly virus in North Carolina. Please see our website: [www.ncagr.gov/avianflu](http://www.ncagr.gov/avianflu), for additional information. This site also directs backyard flock owners to a link to register their own birds. Please help spread the word to anyone who may have concerns or questions.

## In This Issue:

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### Consumers

#### What you need to know

1. The food supply is safe. Sick birds do not make it into the food chain.
2. The health threat to humans is very low according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.
3. NCDA&CS is actively monitoring for this virus and is ready to support poultry owners if the virus is detected in the state.

### Bird owners

#### Know the warning signs

- ▶ Lack of energy and poor appetite
- ▶ Drop in egg production or soft- or thin-shelled misshapen eggs
- ▶ Swelling around the eyes, neck and head
- ▶ Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs (AI)
- ▶ Stumbling, falling down, diarrhea
- ▶ Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock

Call your veterinarian or the Office of the State Veterinarian if you notice any of these signs.

Early detection is important to prevent the spread of disease!

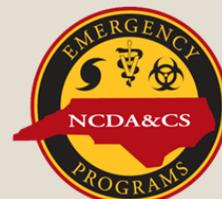


NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

Emergency Programs Division

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

Sharron Stewart, Director



# Why Should I Register My Flock?

## A Word From Our State Veterinarian

We have heard that question from a number of small-flock owners who are concerned about my emergency order to register all poultry flocks in North Carolina. North Carolina is trying to prepare for what has already affected more than 20 states and cost the lives of nearly 50 million birds since last December: highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI.

This disease has affected both commercial and backyard flocks and has been devastating for those bird owners. Flocks affected by this disease show few signs of illness until they are within 24 hours of death, and no treatment can save them. I have asked each of you to register your flock so that we may work together to preserve those birds by preventing exposure to infection.

The greatest risk to flocks begins with the fall movement of migratory waterfowl south from their breeding grounds in Canada. HPAI can be carried by seemingly healthy wild migratory waterfowl, putting flocks kept outside or in contact with waterfowl at highest risk.

Registering your flock will allow us to open two-way communication concerning this terrible disease. We will be able to contact registered flock owners with information about how to prevent infection of your flock, and to keep you updated as the fall migration season approaches. Our flock data are kept confidential by law.

Active participants in the National Poultry Improvement Plan do not need to register; however, you may update any contact information that has changed so that we can keep you informed. Email addresses will be especially useful for communication, but we will keep our website updated and issue news releases as we learn more about movement of the disease.

Our state is facing exposure to the worst animal disease event in U.S. history this fall. The response in other states has already cost U.S. taxpayers more than a half-billion dollars. In addition, this disease has led to numerous job losses that hurt farm families and their communities. Please join with me in this small step toward protecting North Carolina's poultry farms of all sizes from this devastating disease.

Thank you,  
Doug Meckes, DVM  
State Veterinarian



### VRC COORDINATOR

**Mandy Tolson, DVM**  
Southeastern Region Emergency Programs Veterinarian  
(252) 813-0989  
Mandy.Tolson@ncagr.gov

**COMPLETE YOUR VRC REGISTRATION AT WWW.SERVNC.ORG**

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Please see our website for future training and activities.
- Check out our sheltering webinars posted on the website!
- [www.ncagr.gov/oep/sheltering/](http://www.ncagr.gov/oep/sheltering/)

### REQUIREMENTS FOR VRC DEPLOYMENT

- ICS 100, 200, and 700
- Biosecurity/PPE Training
- Knowledge of NC Emergency Management
- Knowledge of Emergency Support Functions
- Attendance at VRC Meetings
- Sign a Code of Conduct

# HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IS IN THE US!

All live bird sales and shows in North Carolina will be canceled  
from Aug. 15, 2015 to Jan. 15, 2016

## KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS:



- ▶ Lack of energy and appetite
- ▶ Decreased egg production or soft/misshapen eggs
- ▶ Swelling of the head, eyelids and comb
- ▶ Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- ▶ Stumbling, falling down, diarrhea
- ▶ Sudden death



## HERE ARE SOME STEPS FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF BIRD FLU AMONG BACKYARD CHICKENS:

- ▶ Keep chickens and turkeys away from ducks and other waterfowl.
- ▶ Install solid fencing so chickens cannot come into direct contact with neighbor chickens and birds.
- ▶ If you have a backyard pond where migrating birds may stop, don't allow your chickens near the water. Keep your feed protected as well.
- ▶ Buy birds from a reputable source and keep new birds separate from the rest of your flock for at least 30 days.
- ▶ Do not share feeding buckets or other equipment and supplies with other bird owners.
- ▶ Wash hands thoroughly before and after working with birds. Wear clean clothes and disinfect cages, tools and other equipment that come in contact with birds and their droppings.

**THIS SPECIFIC STRAIN OF FLU CURRENTLY IN THE US HAS NOT BEEN KNOWN TO AFFECT HUMANS.  
AFFECTED BIRDS DO NOT ENTER THE FOOD CHAIN, SO POULTRY PRODUCTS ARE SAFE TO EAT.**

For help or if your birds are sick, please call the NCDA&CS Veterinary Division at  
919-707-3250 or the USDA toll-free hotline at 1-866-536-7593

[www.ncagr.gov/avianflu](http://www.ncagr.gov/avianflu)

**VRC MISSION: Train and prepare professionals in the animal care community to respond to disaster events (all hazards) that affect both production and companion animals. Our members will serve as a resource for our state and the nation.**

**NOTES:** To see recent news and updates, please visit the VRC website at [www.ncvrc.org](http://www.ncvrc.org). If you have questions about the VRC or would like to offer suggestions or articles for future newsletters, contact Mandy at [mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov](mailto:mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov).



# HPAI Biosecurity Checklist



If we hope to control the spread and eventually eradicate this HPAI virus, all segments of the industry will need to follow comprehensive and stringent biosecurity practices on an ongoing basis. The steps listed below are a sound start.

## Premises

- A comprehensive biosecurity plan has been implemented and shared with all employees.
- Signs warning people not to enter the farm or any of its buildings because of disease control (No Admittance—Biosecurity Zone) are posted at all entrances.
- External entrances to poultry houses are kept locked during nonbusiness hours.
- Houses are bird-proofed against wild or free-flying birds.
- Procedures are in place to prevent the accidental entrance of wildlife and to remove them from poultry houses and other areas should they gain entrance.
- Backyard poultry are prohibited from the premises.
- Dogs and cats are not allowed in chicken houses and egg processing areas.
- Feed bins are secured to prevent contamination by wild birds or rodents, and spilled feed is cleaned up promptly to prevent attracting wild birds and rodents.
- Water is drawn from secure sources that can not be accessed by free-flying birds or rodents.

## Equipment

- Footwear disinfection stations, site-provided footwear, or site-provided foot covers are available outside all external entrances. If footbaths are used, they must be changed at least daily or

more often if the footbath collects dirt, egg contents, or manure.

- Hand washing or hand-sanitizing stations are available at entrances.
- Equipment and tools brought to the farm are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to use.
- Chicken transport equipment (carts, loaders, ramps) is cleaned and disinfected prior to use.
- For egg-laying facilities, only clean, sanitized, and disinfected plastic egg flats or new disposable egg flats are allowed on the premises.
- Cleaned and disinfected equipment is held under conditions that prevent exposure to wild birds.

## Personnel

- Everyone is required to clean and disinfect their footwear or wear site-provided footwear or footwear covers prior to entering chicken houses, processing areas, and office areas.
- Everyone is required to wash/sanitize their hands before entering and after leaving poultry houses and processing areas.
- Employees receive biosecurity training when hired, and annually after that. Records of biosecurity training should be kept up to date.
- Farm policy requires that employees do not own other birds—including pet birds, domestic chickens, fighting chickens, ducks, geese, waterfowl, exotic birds, quail, partridge, or pheasants.



- Employees sign a document when hired and during annual biosecurity training sessions stating that they will avoid contact with other birds not owned by the business. Employees should not be shared between operations.
- In the event that contact is made with other birds, employees agree that they will comply with a 2-day waiting period prior to any entry into any portion of the farm to include the barns, processing plant, and office.
- Farm policy prohibits exposure to equipment from other farms that has not been washed and disinfected.
- Farm policy requires personnel who have visited a rendering plant to shower and change clothes before entering the farm or any of its buildings.
- Spent hen removal crews are prohibited from entering other chicken houses or egg processing areas.

### Visitors

- Visitors do not enter chicken houses unless absolutely necessary.
- Visitors Logbook records the (a) visitor's name, (b) company, (c) time of entry, (d) statement confirming no contact with premises containing birds or rendering activities during the preceding 2 days, (e) time of leaving, and (f) a contact telephone number.
- Visitors and contractors who have had contact with birds during the preceding 2 days are prohibited from entering chicken houses or egg processing areas.
- Clean coveralls (or disposable suits), disinfected boots (or shoe covers), and hairnets are available and required for visitors and contractors to wear before entering barns, egg processing areas, or other work areas.

### Vehicles

- All vehicles that have traveled to a location where other birds are present—even the feed store—are cleaned and disinfected before entering the premises.
- If drivers are required to make multiple stops at more than one individual farm in any given day, they are prohibited from entering chicken houses or egg processing areas.
- Farm policy requires cleaning and disinfection of vehicles and containers from a rendering plant before they enter an egg layer premises.
- Manure trucks never go from one poultry farm to another on the same day. However, if required, the manure trucks must be washed with detergent and disinfected prior to arrival at the next farm.

**\*\*These recommendations are subject to change. Please check [http://www.uspoultry.org/animal\\_husbandry/intro.cfm](http://www.uspoultry.org/animal_husbandry/intro.cfm) and [www.ncagr.gov/avianflu](http://www.ncagr.gov/avianflu) for updates. The first link also includes a informative checklist for self assessment for biosecurity enhancement.**



# ONE HEALTH CORNER

## Announcing the Twelfth One Medicine Symposium

December 9-10, 2015

Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center | Durham, North Carolina

### Teaming Up Against the Flu: A One Medicine Approach to Influenza at the Human-Animal Interface

A conference for physicians, nurses, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, public health professionals, environmental health specialists, agriculture professionals, wildlife professionals, and federal, military, state and local emergency management and disaster responders.



### Program Description

The 2015 One Medicine Symposium will feature a broad range of topics related to influenza in humans and animals, focusing on providing up to date information on recent and ongoing disease outbreaks such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and critical partnerships for influenza preparedness and response activities. The One Medicine Symposium provides professionals from a variety of backgrounds with current information and take-home tools to improve awareness and understanding of the topics from a One Medicine perspective, promote collaboration across professional disciplines, and enhance preparedness for natural or man-made disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and other challenges affecting human and animal health.

### Conference objectives:

- Describe the One Medicine/One Health concept.
- List three reasons to use a One Medicine/One Health approach to prepare and respond to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.
- List three important considerations for communicating information about disease outbreaks.
- Pick two agencies or sectors involved in preparedness or response activities for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and give two examples of ways that they have worked together.

### For a full agenda, registration, continuing education information, and other details visit

[www.onemedicinenc.org](http://www.onemedicinenc.org) or call 919.515.2261

- Registration Fee is \$150

