



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Veterinary Division

R. Douglas Meckes, DVM
State Veterinarian

March 11, 2015

To: North Carolina Poultry Producers Raising Birds with Outside Access

From: R Douglas Meckes, DVM
State Veterinarian

Sarah J Mason, DVM, PhD
Director Animal Health Programs, Poultry

RE: Notification and Biosecurity Recommendations regarding the continuing outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Given the late 2014 occurrences of HPAI in the western United States and the recent confirmation of additional cases in Minnesota, Missouri and Arkansas in commercial poultry, the outbreak appears to be moving eastward. Epidemiological reports confirm that the virus is being carried by certain types of wild migratory waterfowl that are present in both the Pacific and Mississippi flyways. Given that the Mississippi flyway encompasses a portion of western North Carolina, flocks in our state that may contact wild migratory waterfowl or their droppings are at high risk. To attempt to mitigate that risk we are strongly recommending the following steps be taken for the protection of flocks with outside access:

1. Move all poultry with outside access into biosecure housing immediately.
2. Implement strict biosecurity on these premises. Alert all company personnel, growers, farm workers and service personnel of the increased risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Especially focus biosecurity methods on preventing any exposure to wild waterfowl or their droppings.
3. Monitor all flocks for increased mortality or clinical signs consistent with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and report any concerns to your Veterinarian, State Animal Health Official or Federal Animal Health Official immediately. The consistent clinical sign in all the current reported cases to this point has been a marked rapid increase in mortality over several days.
4. Please contact us with your questions or concerns.