

Protecting Backyard Flocks From Avian Influenza



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

What is Avian Influenza (AI)?

- AI is a virus carried by migratory waterfowl (ducks and geese), with over 60 wild bird species affected.
- Domestic poultry (chickens, turkeys, peacocks, emus, guinea fowl and waterfowl) are susceptible and will become very sick.
- The virus is believed to have originated in Eurasia, spread into Canada and then the Atlantic Flyway through wild geese and ducks.
- HPAI has now been detected in domestic and wild birds in all four migratory flyways across the United States (Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic).



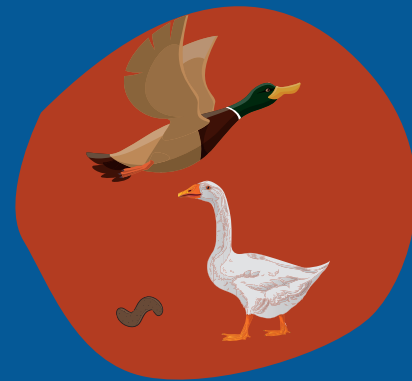
Cover chicken coops and runs to prevent comingling with waterfowl.

Wear dedicated clothing and shoes.



Wash hands before and after working with birds.

Avoid all contact with wild waterfowl or shared water sources by covering ponds with netting, or fencing your domestic birds out of those areas.



Change food and water daily. Store all feed in airtight containers.

Remove birdhouses, feeders, and baths used by wild birds.



Clean and disinfect equipment in contact with birds or droppings.

After visiting places where poultry owners congregate, clean your boots before caring for your birds.



KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS!

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

HOW IS THE DISEASE TRANSMITTED IN BIRDS?

- Foot traffic
- Secretions from birds' mouths, nostrils, eyes, excrement
- Contact with infected droppings
- Movement of infected birds
- Contaminated clothing and equipment

If you have sick or dying birds in your backyard flock, contact the sick bird hotline: **1-800-606-3056**

For more information, visit agr.wa.gov/birdflu