

# Small Flock Avian Flu Information

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has confirmed the presence of the highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza in commercial poultry in Ontario. To control any potential spread of the disease, the CFIA has placed infected premises under quarantine and is establishing movement control measures and recommending enhanced biosecurity. NWC is taking preventative measures with biosecurity at our stores, our delivery and fuel trucks to ensure we are doing our part to stop the spread. We ask that everyone take a moment to read this, to learn the signs as we all do our part.

**What is it?** Avian Influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus that can affect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) carried by free flying waterfowl such as ducks, geese and shorebirds.

**Know the Symptoms:** Some, or all, of the following clinical signs are evident in infected birds:

- High and Sudden Mortality (>90% within 2 days)
- Quietness and extreme depression
- A drop in production of eggs, many of which are soft-shelled or shell-less
- Diarrhea
- Haemorrhages on the hock
- Swelling of the skin under the eyes
- Wattles and combs become swollen and congested
- Incubation period of 2-14 days

**If you suspect AI in your flock:** Contact CFIA 24/7 hotline at (877) 814-2342

## Biosecurity Starts At The Farm – What Can You Do To Protect Your Flock?

- **Don't walk disease into your barn/yard/run.** If possible use designated footwear for barn chores **only**. Use boot wash and/or remove all organic material from footwear, tools and other equipment with a brush or sponge, using detergent or disinfectant and clean, hot water.
- **Restrict Access** to your barn/property. Keep a visitor log
- **Report Sickness** to your veterinarian and self quarantine until a diagnosis is confirmed.
- **Wild Bird Exclusion.** Keep poultry away from areas frequented by wild birds
- **Rodent Control** is important. Although rodents may not necessarily transmit, they can track disease into the coop. Clean up spilled feed that would attract rodents and birds.
- **Keep Birds Inside** until after spring migration (end of February to Mid June)
- **Clean, Clean, Clean!**
- **Establish a Quarantine Plan** for new additions to your flock for a minimum of 2 weeks.

The information surrounding Avian Influenza can change at any moment. For more information, please go to the Poultry Industry Council Resource/Biosecurity Page or CFIA.

<https://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/resources/biosecurity-and-disease>

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