

# Avian Influenza in Minnesota

## *Daily Briefing for April 17, 2015*

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Since the confirmed presence of highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Minnesota, state and federal agencies have been working alongside organization and industry partners to minimize the impact and eliminate the disease.

The information below summarizes the current situation and highlights response activities.

**April 17, 2015**

### **Latest Information**

There were no additional flocks confirmed as positive with H5N2 highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) today.



### **Current Situation**

Total number of farms – 26

Total number of counties – 14

### **Farms by County/Number of Flocks**

Cottonwood: 1

Kandiyohi: 5

Lac Qui Parle: 1

Le Sueur: 1

Lyon: 1

Meeker: 3

Nobles: 1

Ottertail: 1

Pope: 1

Redwood: 1

Roseau: 1

Stearns: 6

Swift: 2

Watonwan: 1

**Total number of birds affected in Minnesota – Over 1.6 million**

*All affected farms remain under quarantine.*



### **No Public Health Risk**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) reports that no human infections with this strain of the virus (H5N2) have been detected in Minnesota or elsewhere in the U.S. However, in some cases certain HPAI H5 viruses can infect people and it is important to prevent infections.

In general, avian influenza viruses are spread to people through direct contact with infected birds or their environments, including contaminated bedding, feed or water. Person-to-person spread of avian influenza viruses is rare and limited.

This is not a public health risk or a food safety risk. The potential risk is for those who have direct contact with infected birds.

### **Poultry Workers**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is monitoring the health of workers, who have had contact with infected poultry, and providing guidance on infection control, the use of personal protective equipment, and providing support for any other health-related aspects of response.

- People who had close, unprotected contact with infected flocks are recommended to receive an antiviral drug called Tamiflu.
- Workers are then contacted daily for 10 days and monitored for development of respiratory symptoms.
- As of today, MDH has completed follow-up contacts for 24 flocks.
- In total, 79 people had been involved in care of the 24 flocks and were interviewed and evaluated.
- 58 people were advised to take antiviral medications as a precautionary measure, and 41 agreed to take Tamiflu.
- The MDH 10-day monitoring period has been completed for 8 flocks; no infections with this virus were detected.

#### **Poultry Producers and Backyard Flock Owners**

- Continue to closely monitor your birds and be proactive in monitoring for disease. Test your flock for influenza – call the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory at 320-231-5170 for more information.
- Prevent your birds from exposure and/or co-mingling with wild waterfowl, wild birds and other types of poultry.
- Report sick birds to your veterinarian, and report unusual death loss to your veterinarian and/or the Board of Animal Health immediately.
- Avoid sharing equipment with other producers/farms.
- Restrict visitors on your farm.
- Producers with general questions about avian influenza and biosecurity can call 888-702-9963.

#### **Hunters of Wild Turkey Asked to Help with Avian Influenza Surveillance**

- Successful wild turkey hunters in Kandiyohi, Pope, Meeker, Swift and Stearns counties can help determine if highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is present in Minnesota wildlife by allowing a sample to be collected from their turkeys.
- Starting Monday, April 20, the DNR is asking successful hunters in these counties to call to schedule an appointment at one of the participating wildlife offices and allow a sample to be collected from their turkey. Successful turkey hunters in these counties must call the following offices beginning April 20 to schedule an appointment:
  - Sauk Rapids, 320-223-7840
  - New London, 320-354-2154
  - Glenwood, 320-634-0342
  - Carlos Avery, 651-296-5290
  - Little Falls, 320-223-7869
- Visit the [DNR's website](#) for more information.



#### **Wild Waterfowl Monitoring**

- The [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR) has collected 768 environmental samples from waterfowl in Pope, Stearns, Lac Qui Parle and Nobles counties.
- Samples are sent to the USDA's National Wildlife Disease Program lab in Fort Collins, CO.
- All of the 378 results returned to date have been negative for H5N2.
- DNR continues to collect and submit samples daily; the goal is 3,000 samples with 1,500 near HPAI-infected commercial poultry operations and 1,500 from state wildlife lands not associated with the commercial operations.
- DNR has collected 13 dead raptors, wild turkeys, and other birds and submitted samples to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison. The wild birds have been collected in

Olmstead, Kandiyohi, Dakota, Hennepin, Pennington, Ramsey, Yellow Medicine, Beltrami and Hubbard counties. Two results have been negative.

#### **Food Safety**

- ▪ All poultry identified with HPAI are prohibited by law from entering the marketplace.
- ▪ There is no evidence that people can acquire avian influenza by eating poultry products.
- ▪ As a reminder, all poultry and eggs should be handled properly and cooked to an internal temperature of 165° F.

#### **Hotlines**

**General questions about avian influenza and biosecurity:** 888-702-9963

**Report sick or dead poultry:** 320-214-6700 Ext. 3804 (MN) OR 866-536-7593 (USDA)

**Report sick or dead wild birds:** 888-646-6367 (DNR)

**Movement permits into/within/out of the control zones:** 651-201-6817 or use the [online permit request form](#)

#### **Background**

- ▪ The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the Pacific, Mississippi and Central flyways. The first case of H5N2 in the Mississippi flyway was confirmed in Minnesota on March 5, 2015.
- ▪ The virus has not caused human illness.
- ▪ The United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world, and USDA is working with its partners to actively look for the disease in commercial poultry operations, live bird markets, and in migratory wild bird populations.
- ▪ For additional information, visit: [www.mnairresponse.info](http://www.mnairresponse.info).