

Avian Influenza in Minnesota

Daily Briefing for April 20, 2015

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 20, 2015

Latest Information

The USDA today confirmed the presence of H5N2 HPAI in the following Minnesota county:

Kandiyohi - 6th detection in the county

A seventh flock in Kandiyohi County was euthanized as a precautionary measure because of its exposure to the sixth flock.

Current Situation

Total number of farms – 28

Total number of counties – 14

Farms by County/Number of Flocks

Cottonwood: 1

Kandiyohi: 7

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 – Approximately 1.7 million

All affected farms remain under quarantine.

Visit the [USDA's website](#) for information on all HPAI findings in the United States.

Personnel Assisting in Response Efforts

Number of state employees: 85

Number of U.S. Department of Agriculture employees: 95

Total: 180

Understanding Response Zones

Affected Site - Premises infected with HPAI are placed under quarantine, prohibiting the movement of poultry and poultry products on or off of the affected site. The USDA works with infected flock owners to develop a plan which includes appraisal and indemnity agreements for depopulation of poultry that



remain on the premises.

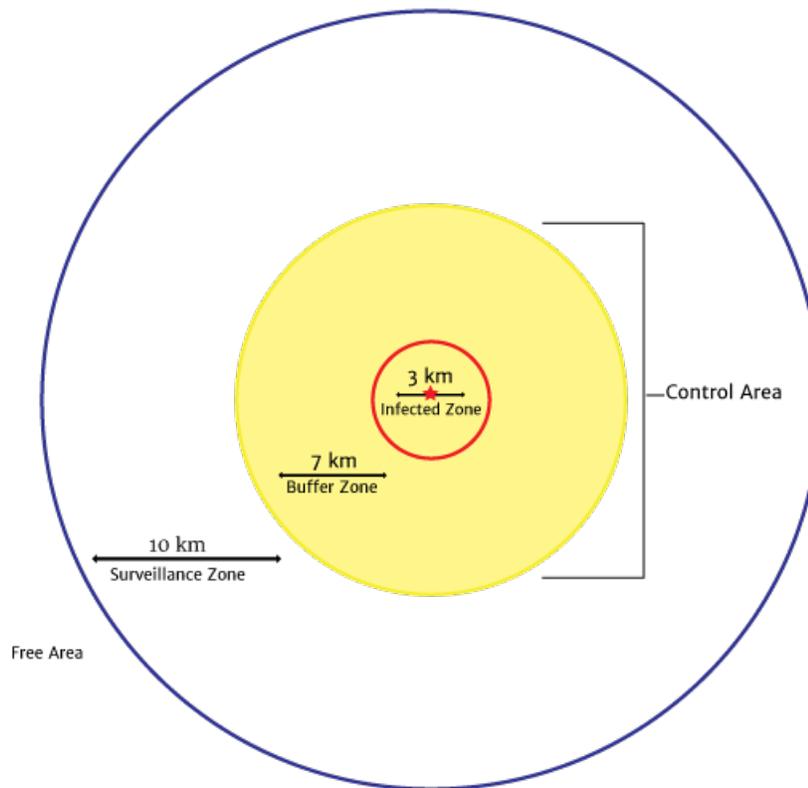
Control Area - 10 km zone established around infected flocks. Within this zone, officials work to identify all premises with commercial and backyard poultry.

Backyard flocks are placed under quarantine and cannot move poultry or poultry products on or off of their premises. These flocks must complete two rounds of surveillance testing, all of which must be negative before quarantines can be lifted.

Commercial flocks inside of the control area undergo surveillance testing in accordance with USDA protocols. All commercial poultry producers in the control area also comply with stringent biosecurity and permitting protocols in order to move poultry or poultry products off of their farms.

Surveillance Zone - 10 km zone surrounding the control area. Animal health officials identify all premises within this zone that have commercial and backyard poultry to provide them with information on HPAI and advise them on biosecurity and close monitoring of their flocks. Commercial poultry operations that fall within this area are testing their flocks for avian influenza every seven days in accordance with protocols established by USDA.

Minnesota Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Zone



Permits for Movement Into or Out of Avian Influenza Control Areas

A permit is required for each movement of birds, eggs or semen into or out of AI control zones. Requests for permits need to come from the premises of origin. All requests should be submitted 24 – 48 hours prior to the desired movement.

Farm Family Assistance

Minnesota farm families affected by HPAI may contact the Minnesota Farmer Assistance Network (MFAN) for assistance. MFAN is a partnership of organizations launched by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) designed to address the needs of farmers facing financial challenges. The primary purpose of the MFAN Program is to provide business and financial guidance. MFAN can also assist by providing referrals for legal services, basic needs, and mental health counseling.

1-877-898-MFAN (6326)

651-201-6326 (local)

mfan.mda@state.mn.us



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 27 flocks.
 - In total, 89 people had been involved in care of the 27 flocks and were interviewed and evaluated.
 - 61 people were advised to take antiviral medications as a precautionary measure, and 42 agreed to take Tamiflu.
 - The MDH 10-day monitoring period has been completed for 10 flocks; no infections with this virus were detected.

Turkey Hunters

Starting today, the DNR is asking successful hunters in Kandiyohi, Pope, Meeker, Swift and Stearns counties to call to schedule an appointment at one of the participating wildlife offices and allow a sample to be collected from their turkey:

- 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.



No Positives Found in Wild Birds in Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has collected 915 samples from wild birds. Of those samples, 378 test results have been received and all are negative for H5N2. The DNR's goal is to collect and test 3,000 samples from affected areas.

Fifteen wild bird carcasses have been sampled. Of the 11 test results received so far, none have tested positive for H5N2.

Visit the [DNR website](#) for more information.

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](#)

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.

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.mnaireponse.info.