

# Avian Influenza in Minnesota

## *Daily Briefing for April 21, 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.

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**April 21, 2015**

### **Latest Information**

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



**Wadena** - 1st detection

**Cottonwood** - 2nd detection

**Kandiyohi** - 8th detection

### **Current Situation**

Total number of farms – 31

Total number of counties – 15

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

Cottonwood: 2

Kandiyohi: 8

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  
Wadena: 1  
Watonwan: 1

**Total number of birds affected in Minnesota – 2,142,500**

*All affected farms remain under quarantine.*

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

## **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](mailto: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 31 flocks.
- In total, 101 people had been involved in care of the 31 flocks and were interviewed and evaluated.
- MDH is currently monitoring 61 poultry personnel for potential symptoms of infection, such as development of an eye infection or respiratory symptoms.
- The MDH 10-day monitoring period has been completed for 11 flocks; no infections with this virus were detected.

## **Turkey Hunters**

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 1,825 samples from wild birds. Of those samples, 915 test results have been received and none have tested positive for H5N2. The DNR's goal is to collect and test 3,000 samples from affected areas.

Eighteen wild bird carcasses have been sampled. Of the four 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

**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.mnaireponse.info](http://www.mnaireponse.info).