

## Situation Update: #11 4/12/2022

### ***Note on content presented in this update:***

*Details disclosed here will be updated on BOAH's website after test results are confirmed at the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory.*

*This policy will keep BOAH's website consistent with USDA's reporting and to avoid impacting international trade.*

## **State of Indiana Response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza**

***Note: New information is highlighted in BOLD ITALIC type.***

### **STATEWIDE SUMMARY:**

***Total number of affected premises = 8***

***Total number of affected counties = 3***

Premises by County/Number of flocks

Dubois: 4: Control areas lifted

Greene: 2: Control areas lifted

***Elkhart: 2***

Total number of birds affected in Indiana

Commercial Turkeys: 171,224

**Commercial Ducks: 10,679**

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

*On April 12, a second commercial duck flock in Elkhart County has tested presumptive-positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The flock, known as Elkhart2, has an estimated 6,000 ducks (more information to come as the situation develops). Board of Animal Health staff are working to notify flock owners in the 10-km Control Area that is being established around Elkhart 2.*

***SURVEILLANCE TESTING:*** Testing of nearby flocks is important to verifying the virus has not spread in the area. *The first round of surveillance testing within the 10-km control area around Elkhart1 is complete with negative results. Testing has begun in the additional 10-km surveillance zone. BOAH will be establishing a 10-km control area around Elkhart2 and notifying farmers in that area.*

***HOBBY/BACKYARD FLOCK SURVEILLANCE:*** *BOAH staff has reached out to approximately 320 residences in the 3-km infected zone around Elkhart1 to schedule testing of birds to ensure the virus is not present. Plans are to do the same around Elkhart2 in the coming days. Hobby poultry owners in Elkhart County should contact BOAH at 317-544-2387 to schedule testing at no charge.*

To date, 74 hobby flocks were tested in Dubois and Greene counties; laboratory testing determined them as negative.

***WILD BIRD SURVEILLANCE:*** USDA Wildlife Services is assisting with surveillance of wild birds in and near the control areas. Approximately 220 samples from waterfowl, pigeons, European starlings and other species have been tested; ***results have proven negative for all samples except for a single redhead duck.***

## **BACKGROUND**

On Feb. 9, 2022, a confirmed case of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was identified in a single commercial turkey flock in Dubois County. This is the first report of HPAI in commercial poultry in the United States since 2020 and the first in Indiana since 2016. Control area lifted on March 23; quarantine of site remains intact.

Samples were collected from the birds on Feb. 7 and submitted to the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) at Purdue University after approximately one hundred birds died, flock appeared lethargic and decreased consumption of water. Tests indicated a likely infection of an H5 avian influenza virus. Under standard protocols, the results were reported to the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH), which authorized prompt transport of the samples to US Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, IA for confirmatory testing.

NVSL confirmed that the virus present was a highly pathogenic strain of H5N1 (with a Eurasian H5 goose/Guangdong lineage). Upon confirmation of HPAI, the 29,000 turkeys in the flock (known as Dubois 1) were depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease in the area.

On Feb. 15 laboratory testing of a second commercial flock of turkeys in Dubois County has identified the H5 avian influenza virus (known as Dubois2). Upon confirmation of HPAI, the 26,473 turkeys in the flock were depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease in the area. Control area lifted on March 23; quarantine of site remains intact.

On Feb. 17, laboratory testing of a commercial flock of turkeys in Greene County has identified the H5 avian influenza virus (known as Greene1). A total of 48,000 turkeys in the flock were depopulated. Control area lifted on March 15; quarantine of site remains intact.

On Feb. 18, laboratory testing identified H5 avian influenza (AI) in a commercial turkey flock in Greene County (known as Greene2). A total of 15,400 turkeys were depopulated. Control area lifted on March 15; quarantine of site remains intact.

On Feb. 22, laboratory testing identified H5 AI in commercial turkeys in Dubois County (Dubois3) about 2.5 miles west of Dubois1. H5N1 was subsequently confirmed by NVSL on Feb. 24. A total of 35,908 turkeys were depopulated. Control area lifted on March 23; quarantine of site remains intact.

On March 1, laboratory testing identified H5 AI in commercial turkeys in Dubois County (Dubois4) about 6/10-mile from Dubois1. Control area lifted on March 23; quarantine of site remains intact.

A 10-km control area (CA) is established around each HPAI-affected flock. All commercial flocks in the control areas must be tested for avian influenza at least weekly. Small, hobby flocks are also subject to

testing. A surveillance zone is also established in the 10-km circle beyond the control area. Flocks in the surveillance zone must be tested every other week.

On March 15, 2022, the control areas surrounding Greene County sites G1 and G2 were lifted. The G1 and G2 sites remain under quarantine until the final steps of the flock plan are complete.

On March 23, 2022, the control areas surrounding the Dubois County farms were lifted; the D1, D2, D3 and D4 farms remain under quarantine until the final steps of the flock plan are complete.

**For the six sites located in Dubois and Greene counties:** Final activities to close the cases continue, including: compost disposal, virus elimination, environmental sampling for presence of the virus, and a fallow period.

Control areas could be lifted upon completion of the USDA-required conditions:

- The last infected premises in the control areas is depopulated and the compost pile has been set (capped)
- No HPAI-positive diagnostics have been identified in the control area for 14 days after the depopulation of the infected premises
- Initial virus elimination activities on the last infected premises are complete (including outside areas of the site, equipment, trucks, and other potential fomites used in the depopulation activities)
- Required surveillance in the control area (commercial and backyard premises) has been completed; no evidence of HPAI infection was found in the control area
- Surveillance requirements for international and bilateral trade are being conducted and may continue

***On April 7, a commercial duck flock in Elkhart County has tested presumptive-positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The flock, known as Elkhart 1, had 4,679 ducks. Those ducks have now been depopulated and disposal (via composting) is underway. Testing of commercial flocks in the control area is ongoing.***

## **RESPONSE**

As part of existing avian influenza response plans, federal and state partners are working jointly on additional surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flocks. 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.

BOAH is working with multiple state and federal partners to respond to this event, including Indiana Department of Health, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and USDA Veterinary Services, Wildlife Services and Farm Service Agency.

## **PUBLIC ADVISORIES**

### *Food Safety*

Avian influenza *does not present a food safety risk*; poultry and eggs are safe to eat. Officials are not aware of any public health significance with this virus. No cases of human infection have been reported. Human health agencies will be monitoring workers and others in contact with birds to monitor for influenza-like illness.

### *Animal Health*

Hobby poultry owners are encouraged to be aware of the signs of avian influenza and report illness and/or death to the **USDA Healthy Birds Hotline: 866-536-7593**. Callers will be routed to a state or federal veterinarian in Indiana for a case assessment. Dead birds should be double-bagged and refrigerated for possible testing.

Signs include: sudden death without clinical signs; lack of energy or appetite; decreased egg production; soft-shelled or misshapen eggs; swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, hocks; nasal discharge; coughing; sneezing; lack of coordination; and diarrhea. A great resource for backyard bird health information is online at: [www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/dtf-resources/dtf-resources](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/dtf-resources/dtf-resources).

Situation updates and status reports about ongoing avian influenza activities, along with critical disease-related information, will be posted online at: <https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza/>. Users may subscribe to email and/or text updates on a subscribe link at that page.

### *Human Health*

Recent detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza A H5N1 viruses (H5N1 bird flu) in wild birds and poultry pose a low risk to the health of the general public; however, rare human infections are possible. Human infections are most likely to be rare and happen in people with recreational or occupational exposures involving prolonged, unprotected close contact with infected birds or contaminated

environments. CDC is taking routine preparedness measures to be ready in case human infections with these viruses happen. IDOH offers the following guidance documents for poultry growers and emergency responders to protect their health:

- [Indiana Department of Health Avian Flu Producer Information](#)
- [Indiana Department of Health Avian Flu Post-Exposure Information](#)

The Indiana Department of Health and the Dubois and Greene County Health Departments have completed public health monitoring for exposed persons at all six sites. Of the 64 people with reported exposure, 50 (78%) were contacted by public health, with varying degrees of follow-up. Of these, none had evidence of infection or illness associated with AI virus.

### *Mental Health*

Community members who are affected by this animal health emergency are to be aware of the possible impact on their mental health and to seek assistance if needed. Available resources include:

- Lifespring Health Systems: *For individuals local to Jasper, IN*; provides support/crisis counseling to the famers and workers on staff of farms affected.
  - Call 812-482-3030
- Be Well Indiana: Feeling overwhelmed, stressed, anxious or alone? Call this free, confidential resource available 24/7 to anyone in the state of Indiana.
  - Call 2-1-1 and enter your ZIP code.
  - Follow the prompts and select number 3 for the Be Well Crisis Helpline.
- Farm Aid: This organization connects farmers with helpful services, resources and opportunities specific to their individual needs. Call the Farmer Hotline for immediate assistance Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM Eastern time.
  - Call 1-800-FARM-AID (1-800-327-6243).
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, as well as prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.
  - Dial 9-8-8 or call 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

## **ABOUT INDIANA POULTRY PRODUCTION**

Indiana is a leading producer of poultry, eggs and poultry products. **Nationally, Indiana ranks number 1 in production of ducks**, second in layer chickens and table eggs, and third in turkeys, as well as a major producer of broilers. Dubois County is Indiana's leading turkey-producing county.

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## **Ongoing/Latest Updates:**

Updates are available online at: <https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza/> Visit that webpage to subscribe for updates delivered via text and/or email by clicking the red "subscribe" icon at the top.

## **Media-Only Contact:**

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