

Situation Update: #15 5/12/2022

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:

COMMERCIAL FLOCKS:

Total number of affected premises = 9

Total number of affected counties = 3

Premises by County/Number of flocks:

Dubois: 4: Control areas lifted

Greene: 2: Control areas lifted

Elkhart: 3: Control areas lifted

Total number of birds affected in Indiana:

Commercial Turkeys: 171,224

Commercial Ducks: 17,179

NON-POULTRY FLOCKS

Total number of affected premises = 2

Total number of affected counties = 2

Johnson: 1

Allen: 1

CURRENT SITUATION

On May 12, a small NON POULTRY (aka backyard) flock tested presumptive-positive for the H5 avian influenza. Samples will be forwarded to the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Iowa for confirmation. The flock is located in Allen County (referred to as Allen1). Nearly all of the flock had died, motivating the owner to call the Healthy Birds Hotline. (NOTE: Under international animal health standards, small, hobby flocks are classified as "non -poultry" to distinguish from operations that participate in commerce.)

SURVEILLANCE TESTING: *Testing of nearby flocks is important to verifying the virus has not spread in the area. A 10k surveillance zone will be established in Allen County to meet surveillance criteria. The affected area contains 18 commercial farms (which are being notified); testing will commence soon.*

HOBBY/BACKYARD FLOCK SURVEILLANCE: *BOAH staff will be reaching out to residents near the Allen County site to schedule testing of birds to ensure the virus is not present. BOAH has 60 registered hobby flocks in the area. Hobby poultry owners in Allen County should contact BOAH at 317-544-2387 to schedule testing at no charge.*

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. Positive test results have been identified in a bald eagle, a hawk and a redhead duck collected in Indiana.*

PROGRESS REPORT: As of May 5, HPAI control areas around the first nine commercial flocks in Indiana have been lifted. This means commercial poultry farms within 10 km of those sites are no longer required to be tested weekly and subject to movement permits for poultry and associated products. Some individual farms remain under quarantine until virus elimination activities are complete.

Control areas can 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 HPIA infection was found in the control area
- Surveillance requirements for international and bilateral trade are being conducted and may continue.

BACKGROUND

On Feb. 9, 2022, a confirmed case of H5N1 (with a Eurasian H5 goose/Guangdong lineage) highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was identified in a commercial flock in Dubois County with 29,000 turkeys (known as Dubois 1). This is the first report of HPAI in commercial poultry in the United States since 2020 and the first in Indiana since 2016. The quarantine was released on April 27.

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. The quarantine was lifted on April 21.

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. The quarantine was lifted on April 20.

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.

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. Control area was lifted on May 5; quarantine of site remains intact.

On April 12, a second commercial duck flock in Elkhart County tested positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The flock, known as Elkhart2, had 6,379 ducks. Control area was lifted on May 5; quarantine of site remains intact.

On April 18, a commercial duck flock in Elkhart County has tested presumptive-positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The flock, known as Elkhart3, has an estimated 6,500 ducks (more information to come as the situation develops). Control area was lifted on May 5; quarantine of site remains intact.

On April 25, a NON POULTRY flock in Johnson County has tested presumptive-positive for the H5N1 avian influenza virus. This finding is notable as this is the first flock in Johnson County. The small hobby flock comprised of chickens, ducks and peafowl has been depopulated.

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/df-resources/df-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.

Wild Bird Health

Wild bird species most likely to carry HPAI, waterbirds and raptors, do not typically visit bird feeders.

If people see sick or dead songbirds, Indiana Department of Natural Resources recommends:

1. Clean bird feeders by removing all debris and scrubbing them clean (while wearing gloves to prevent Salmonella infection); soak the feeders in a diluted bleach solution no stronger than 1 part bleach to 9 parts water; then rinse and dry feeders completely before adding food.
2. Keep bird feeders down until sick birds are no longer seen.
3. Once the feeders are back up, monitor the area for additional sick birds.
4. Report any additional sick or dead birds through DNR's online sick and dead wildlife reporting system: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/wildlife-diseases-inindiana/sick-or-dead-wildlife-reporting/>

More information about avian influenza and wild birds: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/wildlife-diseases-in-indiana/avian-flu-bird-flu/>

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 local health departments (LHD) have been monitoring people who have been exposed to test-positive birds for signs of influenza-like illness. To date, 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.

###

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:

Denise Derrer Spears, Indiana State Board of Animal Health Public Information Director

Email: animalhealth@boah.in.gov Phone: 317-544-2414