



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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On Friday November 4th, 2022, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in two non-commercial backyard flocks (non-poultry) in Yavapai County, Arizona. Prior to this date, the AZDA was notified of sick and dying birds in the area and initiated an investigation. Sampling from these birds were sent to the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, IA. Subsequent results from this sampling confirmed the presence of HPAI.

The AZDA is working closely with APHIS on incident response. AZDA state officials have quarantined the affected premises and depopulation efforts of these flocks are underway and near completion. This response will aid in the prevention of the spread of disease. Area surveillance will be conducted simultaneously to these efforts. Birds from these flocks will not enter the food system.

Due to these detections and the continued spread of HPAI in the United States, here are some guidelines to protect you and your flock:

- **Practice strict biosecurity**

- Anyone involved with poultry should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of themselves and their birds. APHIS has materials available concerning biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and a toolkit available at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/df-resources/df-resources>.
- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [the public health risk associated with these avian influenza detections in birds remains low](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm). As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of all poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 °F is recommended as a general food safety precaution. For your health, please follow CDC guidelines. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm> for more information.
- All current cases of commercial and backyard flock detections are listed on the APHIS website at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>.

- **Report sick and/or dead birds:**

- If you notice a significant number of your **DOMESTIC flock**, or **feral poultry** in your neighborhood, suddenly develop sneezing, coughing, eye/nose discharge, lethargy, paralysis, or rapid decline and sudden death, please contact the State Veterinarian's Office at **602-542-4293** or please reach out via email to: [diseasereporting@azda.gov](mailto:diseasereporting@azda.gov) and [npip@azda.gov](mailto:npip@azda.gov).
- If you become aware of **WILD BIRDS** or wild birds in a rehabilitation facility with similar symptoms, please contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department at **602-942-3000 OPTION 5** in order to report suspected disease.
- While the risk to human and pet health is exceedingly low, still wear gloves and masks if handling domestic or wild deceased birds and double bag birds prior to calling AZDA or AZGFD as applicable.

- **Additional Information:**

- Avian influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and is carried by free flying waterfowl such as ducks, geese and shorebirds
- Please **AVOID** intentionally feeding wild birds or putting out feed for your flock that wild birds can readily access. These practices attract congregation of wild birds, which increases the risk of spreading HPAI to other wild birds and to domestic poultry. Many times these birds will not appear outwardly sick, but can still spread the disease.
- Please avoid pools of standing water or flood irrigation, which may also attract a variety of wild birds to congregate around the water source.
- APHIS urges producers to consider bringing birds indoors when possible to further prevent exposures. The Animal Health Protection Act authorizes APHIS to provide indemnity payments to producers for birds and eggs that must be depopulated during a disease response. APHIS also provides compensation for disposal activities and virus elimination activities. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found at <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>.