



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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This year, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been spreading across the United States. The first detection in domestic poultry occurred in February 2022 in Indiana. To date, 37.94M birds have been depopulated due to HPAI. As this virus sweeps the country, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) want to remind poultry owners to take precautions to avoid disease entering their flocks.

Currently, there have been no confirmed cases of HPAI in domestic poultry in Arizona. However, recent wildlife surveillance has confirmed HPAI in wild birds. Three resident Neotropical Cormorants in Scottsdale, Arizona tested positive for HPAI H5N1. Surveillance, sampling and testing efforts were conducted through AZGFD and the US Geological Survey (USGS) National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC). Results were confirmed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) on 6/7/2022. Due to this detection and the continued spread of HPAI in the United States, here are some guidelines to protect your flock:

- **Practice strict biosecurity**

- Biosecurity is an important part of flock management and can prevent the spread of disease. Backyard flock owners should adopt biosecurity practices, including preventing domestic birds from exposure to wild birds and other types of poultry, including game birds or waterfowl.
- If you obtain any new birds, please ensure that you are quarantining these birds away from your main flock for 30 days prior to commingling. Separate sick animals from healthy animals.
- Limit traffic of people, vehicles, and equipment in and out of your farm.
- Have a “line of separation” between your farm and the outside world.
- Wear PPE, wash hands, and disinfect clothing, equipment, and vehicles as needed to help prevent the spread of disease.
- Please AVOID attending organized bird swaps, enthusiast meet-ups, or social media ‘For Sale’ listings and/or purchasing birds from these sources. Purchasing birds through NPIP certified producers is a much safer practice.
- Check out the following biosecurity resource “Defend the Flock” provided by the USDA: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program>. This information can help poultry owners like you to develop healthy habits in safe poultry keeping.

- **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 and 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 Commission at **602-942-3000 OPTION 5** in order to report suspected disease.
- For your health, please follow CDC guidelines. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm> for more information. While the human health risk 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.

- **Remove bird feeders from your yard**

- **For flock owners:** 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.
- Additionally, please avoid pools of standing water or flood irrigation, which may also attract a variety of wild birds to congregate around the water source.