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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE DATE: November 15, 2024

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Avian Influenza Detection

Phoenix, AZ – Poultry at a commercial farm located in Pinal County have tested positive for Avian Influenza. When the poultry began showing clinical signs consistent with avian influenza on November 11, 2024, samples from the location were submitted to the Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (AZVDL) for preliminary determination, then submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for confirmation. Eggs produced after the onset of illness have not entered the food supply. Consumers in Arizona and around the nation can remain confident in the safety and quality of eggs and egg products. The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) has ensured a quick response to alleviate any supply chain challenges.

According to the <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u> (CDC), the risk to the general public is considered to be low with those most at risk of exposure being individuals working on a commercial farm, directly involved with the daily care and husbandry of the birds. Information regarding protective actions for workers and the monitoring of avian influenza can be found on the CDC's <u>website</u>, updated regularly.

"ADHS is collaborating with AZDA in the response to avian influenza and will continue to monitor influenza activity in Arizona in collaboration with local health departments. While the risk to the general public remains low, workers and individuals that may be at risk for exposure to avian influenza should follow public health guidance," said Nicole Witt, ADHS Assistant Director of Preparedness.

The affected poultry farm has been placed under quarantine on the recommendation of the Director of the AZDA and the AZDA State Veterinarian. Enhanced biosecurity measures are in place and efforts are underway to perform virus elimination. All applicable sanitation responses have been quickly implemented. Our dedicated and experienced team continues to monitor the situation closely to ensure consumer protection is always maintained.

Sick Bird Hotline: If you see signs of illness in your poultry, report them immediately to USDA at 1-866-536-7593. You can also contact your local cooperative extension office, local veterinarian, or your State Veterinarian. For wild bird illness, please contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department.