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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NEWS RELEASE DATE: MEDIA CONTACT:

November 25, 2024 Rachel Andrews < mail to: <u>randrews@azda.gov</u> Chief Legislative Liaison and Public Information Officer (602) 531-3666

Avian Influenza Detection

Phoenix, AZ – Poultry in a backyard flock located in Maricopa County have tested positive for Avian Influenza. When the poultry began showing clinical signs consistent with avian influenza, samples from the location were submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for testing and results were confirmed on November 21, 2024. The owner reported signs of illness in their flock utilizing the Sick Bird Hotline which facilitated a quick and efficient response to mitigate the risk of spread.

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 directly involved with the daily care and husbandry of the birds. Information regarding protective actions for workers, owners, and the monitoring of avian influenza can be found on the CDC's <u>website</u>, updated regularly.

"ADHS is collaborating with AZDA and local health departments 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 location has been placed under quarantine and efforts have taken place to perform virus elimination. All applicable sanitation responses have been quickly implemented. Our dedicated and experienced team continues to monitor the situation closely.

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.