



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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23-NOV-2022

RE: Arizona Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) & Poultry Exhibits

Dear poultry producer and/or exhibitor,

Over the course of the last 9 months, 2022 has had the unfortunate distinction of hosting the largest, most persistent HPAI outbreak on record, and across all disease events recorded, is in fact the largest disease outbreak in the history of the United States. To date, there have been countless wildlife detections in a variety of species including waterfowl, raptors and other birds. In domestic poultry, 46 states have had positive detections that have affected nearly 51 million birds. Response effort costs are estimated to be nearly \$1 billion dollars to date and continue to accrue daily.

On November 4th, 2022, the Arizona Department of Agriculture identified Arizona's first case of HPAI in domestic poultry followed shortly after with a second detection. Given the return of migratory birds overwintering in Arizona and the heightened risk for transmission to domestic poultry over the next several months, the State Veterinarian, the Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture, and the Natural Resources Advisor to Governor Ducey, have agreed to **implement a temporary moratorium on live poultry exhibits in the state until further notice**. Typically, we could expect the relative risk to return to normal levels in the spring with northern migration of wild species and once again allow exhibits at that point.

On behalf of the Arizona Department of Agriculture I would like to personally thank you for your understanding surrounding the circumstances in implementing these extraordinary measures. Our goal is to mitigate disease outbreaks associated with events concentrating poultry from multiple premises of origin with non-uniform, and varying degrees of biosecurity.

Sincerely,

Ryan Wolker DVM, MVetSc, DACVS
State Veterinarian, FADD
Animal Services Division
Arizona Department of Agriculture

