



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

2022 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Announcement
July 22, 2022

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) 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 a non-commercial backyard flock (non-poultry) in Seminole County, Florida.

Samples from the flock were tested at the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, and confirmed at the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa.

FDACS and USDA, APHIS are working closely on a joint incident response. The affected premises has been quarantined, and birds on the property were depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Birds from the affected flock will not enter the food chain.

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. 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.

As part of existing avian influenza response plans, Federal and State partners are working jointly on additional surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flock.

Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds. APHIS has materials about 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>.

Affected Florida Premises 2022

Updated 7/22/2022

County and Flock Number	Date Confirmed Positive	Type of Operation	Status	Type
Seminole 01	7/21/2022	Backyard Non-Poultry	Depopulated	H5N1 HPAI

- Total number of domestic birds affected in Florida: 140
- Total number of farms affected: 1
- Total number of counties affected: 1

Hotlines

For general information regarding Florida’s Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response, please call 850-410-0900 or visit www.FDACS.gov/AI.

How to Report Sick Birds

Anyone working with birds, not just veterinarians, is required to report sick birds to the FDACS, so incidents can be investigated. Early detection makes a difference. If you notice any of the following in your flock, please report immediately:

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock.
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and nasal discharge.
- Watery and green diarrhea.
- Lack of energy and poor appetite.
- Drop in egg production.
- Swelling around the eyes, neck and head.
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs.
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement.

Domestic Birds: Report unusual sickness or die-offs in domestic poultry to FDACS	850-410-0900 (during office hours) or 1-800-342-5869 (after hours) or by email at RAD@FDACS.gov
Wild Birds: Report dead wild birds to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 1-866-293-9282 or website https://app.myfwc.com/FWRI/AvianMortality/

Biosecurity

Protecting your birds from disease has always been important. Maintain strict biosecurity measures by taking the following precautions to help minimize the risk of introduction of HPAI to your birds and protect Florida’s poultry industry.

1. **Eliminate opportunities for your birds to interact with wild birds.** We know that wild waterfowl are carriers of disease, including HPAI. The best way to avoid diseases that wildlife carry is to keep domestic animals separated from the wild.
2. **If you have birds at home, do not visit another farm, home or facility that also has birds.** If you must visit another premises, be sure to shower and put on clean clothes and shoes beforehand.
3. **Remember that vehicles can be vehicles for disease transmission.** Before you drive down the road, consider where you are going. Will you be heading to the fair, another farm or a live bird market? If the answer is yes, be sure your vehicle is clean and free of dirt, manure and other organic material.
4. **Early detection can help prevent the spread of disease.** Knowing the signs to look for and monitoring the health of your birds on a regular basis is very important. Some signs

to look for include nasal discharge, unusually quiet birds, decreased food and water consumption, drop in egg production, and increased/unusual death loss in your flock.

5. **Report sick and dead birds to state health officials immediately.** If your birds appear sick or you have experienced increased mortality, report it immediately to the appropriate phone number located at the top of this webpage.

For Bird Handlers

- When working indoors, work in well-ventilated areas.
- When working outdoors, work upwind of birds to decrease risk of inhaling aerosols such as dust, feathers or dander.
- When possible, wear rubber or latex gloves that are disposable or can be disinfected.
- When possible, wear protective eye wear or a face shield while handling birds.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Disinfect work surfaces and equipment.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling birds.

For Hunters and Others Handling Birds

- Precautions should include hand washing, proper food preparation and clean up, and thorough cooking.
- Do not handle or eat sick game.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game, and thoroughly wash hands and all knives, equipment and surfaces that come in contact with game.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling animals.
- Avian influenza viruses are destroyed by heat and not transmitted through cooked food. All fowl should be cooked thoroughly (well done or 160 degrees F)

Announcements

For more information regarding the national Avian Influenza response, please visit www.FDACS.gov/AI and [USDA APHIS | 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#).

Press Releases

Please visit [Press Releases / News & Events / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services \(fdacs.gov\)](#) for the latest press releases regarding Florida's Avian Influenza Response.

Resources

- www.FDACS.gov/AI
- [USDA APHIS | 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#)
- [USDA APHIS | Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\)](#)
- [Influenza | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)
- www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/

Media Inquiries

Please contact Erin Moffet by email at Comms@FDACS.gov or by telephone, (850) 617-7700.