

BIRD FLU AND YOU

Keeping it away from your birds

1. Separate flock from disease sources, esp. wild birds
2. Enclosed, fenced area
3. Reduce or eliminate standing water (pools)
4. Keep poultry area and equipment clean
5. Separate new or returning birds from your flock **for at least 30 days**
6. Do not share equipment between neighbors.
7. Report outbreaks of sick or dead birds to USDA or state veterinarian/WLSB
8. Avoid visiting natural ponds and streams where waterfowl occur
9. Don't handle dead wild birds you find, esp. waterfowl, shore birds, or gulls
10. Care buying new birds
11. Limit/prevent visitors seeing/handling your birds
12. If you must have visitors, ask about contact with birds
13. Wash hands using soap after handling birds, including your own
14. Don't feed wild birds near your poultry
15. Care with wild bird carcasses and parts if you or family member is a hunter
16. Disinfection: most disinfectants incl. bleach; Virkon S

Key facts:

- In Wyoming NOW!
- Sporadic outbreaks in USA: 1924, 1983, 2004, 2015 and now 2022
- Caused by virus – highly pathogenic avian influenza virus, H5N1 strain
- Backyard flocks; also wild birds and large commercial poultry operations
- In Eastern and Midwestern USA; now Western United States
- Shed in feces and ocular secretions
- Kills many birds without clinical signs – many birds found dead at one time
- If clinical signs: reduced water intake; sudden death (lots of birds); difficulty breathing; diarrhea; discolored skin of legs and/or heads; neurological signs
- Domestic and wild birds
- In WY (4/15.2022): wild turkeys; great horned owls; geese; magpies
- No human infections with H5N1 bird flu viruses ever identified in U.S.
- Candidate vaccine virus available – can be used if infections seen in people
- Regulated disease – if a flock infected get it, many members likely to die of disease. Survivors must be euthanized (killed humanely) to limit further spread
- Bird premises within defined radius (e.g., 6 miles – MN) of infected flock will be tested for HPAI
- Generally compensation paid by state or USDA for destroyed birds

DO'T 15-Apr-22