

# HPAI:

## **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza**

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, is a rapidly spreading viral disease that can infect many types of birds. Avian influenza, often called avian flu or bird flu, can be common, but some strains are highly pathogenic, which means they are more deadly. Introduced by migrating wild birds, HPAI can spread through spring migration and affect all domestic poultry — small and backyard flocks as well as commercial industries.

Poultry with HPAI do not survive the illness. Vaccines for HPAI are not readily available.

#### **Signs of Avian Influenza**

- Coughing and sneezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Extreme depression
- Lack of energy
- Decrease in feed or water intake

- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle and legs
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden unexplained death

Biosecurity is your best option to prevent HPAI from entering your small or backyard poultry flock.

### Here is what you can do:

#### **Protect Your Small Flock from Avian Influenza**



- Limit or halt travel with your birds to sales, shows and swaps.

  Ensure you have clean hands, clothes, and footwear before handling your birds if you attend events. Do not allow others to handle your birds.
- Limit your birds' visitors.

  If someone must visit your birds: discuss where they have been. Have them wash their hands and wear clean clothes and footwear.



