POULTRY DISEASE ALERT

AVIAN INFLUENZA "BIRD FLU"

Since December 2014, a dangerous new strain of Avian Influenza (AI), also known as "bird flu," has been found in poultry and wild birds in the United States. All poultry owners need to be on the lookout for signs of illness in their poultry and use good biosecurity practices to protect their birds. This influenza strain is deadly to birds but poses NO immediate public health concern for humans.

WHERE DOES AI COME FROM?

AI is a viral disease of poultry. AI can be of low pathogenicity (LPAI), causing mild disease with or without clinical signs, or of high pathogenicity (HPAI), causing severe disease and death loss. Wild birds, especially migratory waterfowl (ducks and geese) are carriers of the virus and can pass the disease along even though they appear healthy.

Purple discoloration of the comb.

Swelling of the head and face.

REPORT SICK BIRDS OR UNEXPLAINED DEATH LOSS

LPAI in chickens and turkeys resembles other mild respiratory diseases. With HPAI, the birds may become very quiet, may not eat or drink, have diarrhea and discolored combs and feet. Birds may also die suddenly without any signs of disease.

GOOD BIOSECURITY PROTECTS YOUR FLOCK

The virus is transmitted by bird droppings. Help protect your birds by minimizing your flock's exposure to wild waterfowl. Use dedicated foot wear or use disinfectant footbaths prior to entering your bird pens, don't lend or borrow equipment from other farms and avoid visiting other poultry farms and auctions. If you do, change clothes and footwear before working with your own birds.

HPAI can devistate a healthy flock.

For more information, or to report sick or dead poultry, contact:
New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health
Phone: 609-671-6400 • Email: state.veterinarian@ag.state.nj.us
-OR-
USDA APHIS Veterinary Services NJ Office
Phone: 609-259-5260

NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For updated information on HPAI visit: www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah/diseases/

March 2015