



Le Sueur County, MN

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Board Meeting

Item 8

**10:40 a.m. Cindy Shaughnessy, Ann Traxler, Amy Beatty, Brad Krier
(10 min)**

Update on Bird Flu (Avian Influenza H5N2)

Staff Contact:



LE SUEUR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners Meeting
April 21, 2015

Ann Traxler, Emergency Manager
Amy Beatty, Environmental Programs Specialist
Brad Krier, MDH South Central Regional Epidemiologist
Cindy Shaughnessy, Public Health Director

Agenda: Highly Pathogenic H5N2 Avian Influenza (HPAI)

- 1) Ann Traxler, Emergency Manager
 - Review of timeline re: confirmation of HPAI in Le Sueur County
 - Mobilization of Le Sueur County resources – notification
 - Collaboration of departments and agencies involved in response
- 2) Amy Beatty, Environmental Programs Specialist
 - County specific info: number of poultry (turkey, chicken) farms
 - Avian Flu Outbreak Zone
 - USDA (United States Department of Agriculture)
& the Minnesota Board of Animal Health involvement
 - Biosecurity – practices to prevent spread (handout)
- 3) Brad Krier, MDH SC Regional Epidemiologist
 - Epidemiology of HPAI – what exactly is the “Bird Flu?”
 - Monitoring of workers at infected farms – the “human” health side
 - Handouts: MDH Fact Sheet and MN Board of Animal Health FAQ
- 4) Cindy Shaughnessy, Public Health Director
 - Collaboration and notification of our health care partners
 - Guidance for Hunters – Protect Yourself and Your Birds (handout)
- 5) Ann Traxler, Emergency Manager
 - Plans for the future
 - Economic Impact

Highly Pathogenic H5N2 Avian Influenza

Background

In November 2014, H5N2 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was identified in commercial poultry, backyard hobby flocks, and wild birds in British Columbia, Canada and several western states including Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

In Minnesota, highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza was first confirmed in a commercial turkey flock in Pope County in early March 2015. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) quarantined the affected flock, and the remaining birds were depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease.

On March 26, 2015, a second turkey flock infected with HPAI H5N2 was identified in Minnesota. This flock, in Lac Qui Parle County, was recognized quickly and reported the BAH. The flock has been quarantined and the remaining birds will be depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease.

Can humans be infected with H5N2?

No human cases of infection with this strain of the virus (H5N2) have been detected in the U.S. or other countries. However, some highly pathogenic avian flu viruses can infect people causing mild to severe respiratory illness. In most cases, people are infected after direct contact with birds that are sick with or died from highly pathogenic avian influenza. Symptoms in infected people can include influenza-like illness (e.g., fever, aches, and respiratory symptoms) and red, itchy eyes.

Person-to-person transmission of avian influenza viruses is very rare.

Highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza does not pose a health risk to the public. Only persons who have direct contact with infected birds are potentially at risk. People in contact with infected birds are monitored by MDH for 10 days to make sure they don't become sick. It is also recommended for people who have had unprotected contact to take antiviral medication.

How is H5N2 spread?

Avian influenza viruses are spread through direct contact with infected birds or through contact with contaminated bedding, feed or water.

What is MDH doing?

We work closely with animal health agencies, local public health, and the poultry industry to identify, protect, and monitor the health of poultry workers and others in direct contact with infected birds.

For more information on H5N2, go to the BAH website: www.bah.state.mn.us/poultry



Minnesota Department of Health
Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control Division
PO Box 64975, Saint Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 www.health.state.mn.us

3/27/2015

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Frequently Asked Questions

Updated April 8, 2015

What is Avian Influenza?

- Avian Influenza (AI) is a viral disease that affects all species of birds. It is caused by the type “A” influenza virus.
- AI viruses can be classified into two categories, those that cause mild to no disease in poultry (low pathogenic avian influenza or LPAI) and those that cause severe disease (highly pathogenic avian influenza or HPAI).
- Waterfowl are the natural reservoirs (carriers) of AI viruses. While the viruses may cause marked illness and fatality in domestic poultry, waterfowl often show little to no signs of infection.

What are the signs of HPAI?

- Some birds may exhibit flu and cold-like symptoms. Signs may include: loss of appetite, lack of vocalization, drop in egg production, coughing, swollen face, diarrhea and paralysis.
- Sudden and rapid death loss.

How is HPAI spread?

- AI is spread easily through droppings or nasal discharge of an infected bird, which contaminates dust and soil.
- People can carry the virus on their shoes, clothes, equipment and vehicles.
- Control methods are limited; therefore, it is better to prevent infections with biosecurity at an individual farm and regional level. Influenza viruses follow the movement of people and equipment and can only be controlled if everyone communicates openly.

Does it affect people? Can people get AI from eating poultry?

- The risk of human infection is very low. To date, the HPAI strains that have been found in the United States have not been detected in humans.
- Risk of infection is limited to people in direct contact with affected birds.
- All poultry identified with HPAI are prohibited by law from entering the marketplace.
- There is no evidence that people can acquire AI by eating poultry products.
- As a reminder, all poultry and eggs should be handled properly and cooked to an internal temperature of 165° F.

What is being done to prevent and stop the spread of HPAI?

- Early detection is the key to preventing the spread of the virus.
- Minnesota’s AI surveillance program has been in place for more than 40 years.
- Every commercial poultry flock in Minnesota is tested for influenza by the Board of Animal Health prior to going to market. Some smaller poultry flocks and live bird markets in Minnesota also participate in AI surveillance programs.

- The United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world. The USDA along with poultry industry partners are actively looking for the disease.
- In Minnesota, the Board of Animal Health immediately quarantines potentially-infected flocks and collects samples for AI testing.
- Once a flock is confirmed positive, the Board and the USDA work with the producer/bird owner to create a flock plan. The plan includes appraisal, indemnity and depopulation of remaining birds, carcass disposal and cleaning and disinfection of the premises.
- To meet federal requirements for HPAI response, the Board also conducts surveillance testing within 10 km of the affected farm and notifies all other poultry owners within a 20 km area.

What role do waterfowl play in the spread of HPAI?

- Waterfowl are the natural reservoirs (carriers) of AI viruses.
- Ultimately wild birds are involved as a reservoir but the specifics of how this virus got into these farms is an ongoing investigation. Owners of domestic poultry can use biosecurity to protect their flocks.

What is Biosecurity?

- Biosecurity is a term used to describe the procedures and practices that are followed by the poultry industry in order to contain or prevent the spread of influenza viruses in a poultry flock. These practices include isolation, sanitation and traffic control of people, animals and equipment.

What steps can I take to protect my flock(s)?

- Discourage co-mingling of waterfowl and domestic birds and poultry. This includes eliminating feed or water available which attracts waterfowl and other wild birds.
- Avoid on-farm traffic patterns that cross waterways. Wear appropriate footwear that can be cleaned and sanitized.
- Prevent access to surface water and the surrounding environment by poultry and prevent wild birds access to poultry feed, water and other environments strictly for poultry.
- Avoid the use of surface water for watering poultry unless it has been treated/disinfected.

What should I do if I observe signs of illness or increased mortality in my birds?

- Call 320-214-6700, ext. 3804,
- The USDA at 866-536-7593, or
- Your local/flock veterinarian.

Visit www.mnaireponse.info for additional information.



Biosecurity Tips:

6 WAYS TO PREVENT POULTRY DISEASE

If you are a backyard or pet bird owner, you know your birds depend on you to keep them healthy. There are some basic practices you can follow to prevent poultry disease.

1) Keep Your Distance.

Restrict access to your property and your birds. Consider fencing off the area where your birds are to form a barrier between “clean” and “dirty” areas. The clean area is the immediate area completely surrounding your birds. The dirty (or “buffer”) area is the immediate adjacent area—consider this area to be infected with germs, even if your birds appear healthy and disease free.

Allow only people who take care of your birds to come into contact with them. Your caretakers should not attend bird shows or other events where birds are present. If visitors to your property want to see your birds, be sure they wash up first and clean their shoes. Better yet, keep clean boots or shoe covers for visitors to wear. If your visitors have birds of their own, do not let them enter your bird area or have access to your birds.

Game birds and migratory waterfowl should not have contact with your flock because they can carry germs and diseases. If your birds are outdoors, try to keep them in a screened area.

2) Keep It Clean.

Since germs can be picked up on shoes and clothing, moved from one area to another, and can potentially make your birds sick, you need to protect your birds’ home by keeping it clean.

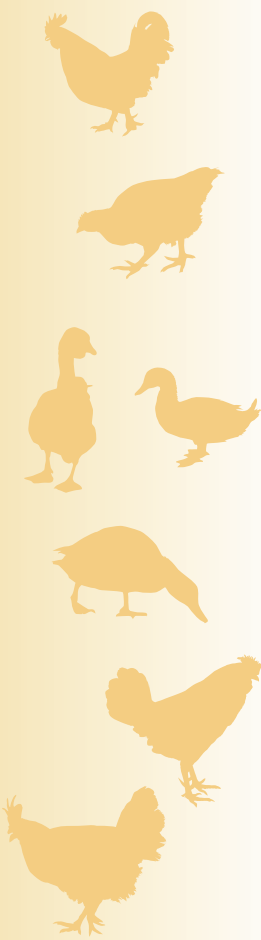
To keep your birds “germ-free,” have a pair of shoes and a set of clothes to wear only around your birds. Many people store these clean clothes in a covered pail at the entrance to their bird area. Or, clean and disinfect your shoes and launder your clothes before you check on or work with your birds.

Scrubbing your shoes with a long-handled scrub brush and disinfectant will remove droppings, mud, or debris. Wash your clothes with laundry detergent. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before entering your bird area.

Keep cages clean and change food and water daily. Clean and disinfect equipment that comes in contact with your birds or their droppings. That includes tools such as feed scoops, shovels, rakes, and brooms. All manure must be removed before disinfectant can work, so clean surfaces with soap and water first. Properly dispose of dead birds by burial or incineration or take them to a landfill. Check on local ordinances for acceptable disposal methods.

3) Don’t Haul Disease Home.

Car and truck tires, poultry cages, and equipment can all harbor “germs.” If you travel to a location where other birds are present, or even to the feed store, be sure to clean and disinfect these items before you return to your property.



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Health Inspection Service
(APHIS)
(301) 851-4100

Taking some of your birds to a fair or exhibition? Keep those birds separated from the rest of your flock and watch them for at least 2 weeks after the event to ensure that they didn't pick up a disease. New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 30 days before putting them with the rest of your birds. To prevent disease, it is best not to mix young and old birds or birds from different species or different sources.

4) Don't Borrow Disease From Your Neighbor.

Do not share birds, lawn and garden equipment, tools, or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners. If you do bring equipment, tools, or supplies home, clean and disinfect them before they reach your property. And remember to clean and disinfect borrowed items before returning them.

Never share items such as wooden pallets or cardboard egg cartons because they are porous and cannot be adequately cleaned and disinfected.

5) Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases.

Many bird diseases can be difficult to diagnose. The list below includes some of the things to look for that signal something might be wrong with your birds. Early detection of signs is very important to prevent the spread of disease.

- 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 or soft- or thin-shelled, misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs (avian influenza)
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (exotic Newcastle disease)

6) Report Sick Birds.

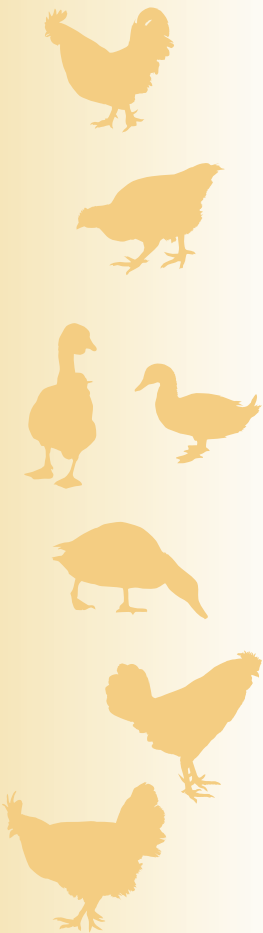
Do not wait to report unusual signs of disease or unexpected deaths among your birds. Call your agricultural extension agent, local veterinarian, the State veterinarian, or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services office.

USDA operates a toll-free hotline (**1-866-536-7593**) with veterinarians to help you. USDA wants to test sick birds to make sure they do not have a serious poultry disease. There is no charge for USDA veterinarians to work with you to conduct a disease investigation. Early reporting is important to protect the health of your birds.

Call 1-866-536-7593 (toll-free) to report sick birds!

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

APHIS Factsheet | Veterinary Services | Issued July 2013



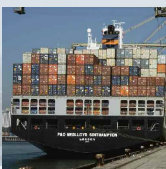
Guidance for Hunters—Protect Yourself and Your Birds From Avian Influenza

Avian influenza (AI), commonly known as “bird flu,” is a respiratory disease of birds caused by an influenza type A virus. These viruses can infect poultry (chickens, ducks, quail, pheasants, guinea fowl, and turkeys) and some wild bird species (such as ducks, swans, and geese). Yet, they impact poultry and wild birds in different ways. Wild birds can carry the AI viruses but usually do not get sick from them. However, AI in poultry is typically contagious and can make some domesticated birds very sick or even cause death.

Types of AI Viruses

There are many different subtypes of influenza A viruses. These subtypes differ and are classified based on a combination of two groups of proteins on the surface of the influenza A virus: hemagglutinin or “H” proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16), and neuraminidase or “N” proteins, of which there are 9 (N1–N9). Many different combinations of “H” and “N” proteins are possible. Each combination is considered a different subtype and can also be broken down into different strains. AI viruses are further classified by their pathogenicity—the ability of a particular virus strain to produce disease in domestic chickens.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus strains are extremely infectious, often fatal to domestic poultry, and can spread rapidly from flock to flock. Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) virus strains occur naturally in wild migratory waterfowl and shorebirds without causing illness. The AI viruses that cause concern in poultry and wild birds are HPAI viruses and any virus designated as H5 or H7, regardless of pathogenicity. This is because H5 and H7 viruses are capable of converting from LPAI to HPAI.



Take Precautions

There’s a lot you can do to reduce the risk of exposing your poultry or pet birds to AI. Basic safety precautions can keep disease from spreading. Please follow the guidance below to help protect your birds and yourself.

Protect Your Birds

- Dress your game birds in the field whenever possible.
- If you must dress birds at home, clean them in an area your poultry and pet birds cannot access. Ideally, there would be a solid barrier between your game cleaning area and where your birds are housed.
- Keep a separate pair of shoes to wear only in your game cleaning area. If this is not possible, wear rubber footwear and clean/disinfect your shoes before entering or leaving the area.
- Use dedicated tools for cleaning game, whether in the field or at home. Do not use those tools around your poultry or pet birds.
- Always wear rubber gloves when cleaning game.
- Double bag the offal and feathers. Tie the inner bag, and be sure to take off your rubber gloves and leave them in the outer bag before tying it closed.
- Place the bag in a trash can that poultry and pet birds cannot access. This trash can should also be secure against access by children, pets, or other animals.
- Wash hands with soap and water immediately after handling game. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol wipes.
- Wash all tools and work surfaces with soap and water. Then, disinfect them.

Protect Yourself

- Do not harvest or handle wild birds that are obviously sick or found dead.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game.
- Wear rubber gloves while cleaning game or cleaning bird feeders.
- Wash hands with soap and water immediately after handling game or cleaning bird feeders. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol wipes.
- Wash all tools and work surfaces with soap and water. Then, disinfect them.
- Avoid cross-contamination. Keep uncooked game in a separate container, away from cooked or ready-to-eat foods.
- Cook game meat thoroughly; poultry should reach an internal temperature of 165 °F to kill disease organisms and parasites.

Questions?

For more information about AI, contact your Federal, State, or local animal health officials.

Contact information for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services office in your State is available on our Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/state-offices.

If you have any questions or concerns about wild birds, contact your local USDA Wildlife Services office at 1-866-4-USDA-WS.

