

High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) Biosecurity Advisory

March 22, 2022

Current Situation:

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has informed the Feather Board Command Centre that a positive case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was officially confirmed on March 22 in a red-tailed hawk west of Waterloo, Ontario
- On March 15, Canada's 6th HPAI infected poultry flock was reported in a non-commercial flock in southern Nova Scotia. There have been several recent HPAI cases in wild birds in BC and all the Maritime provinces.
- Over the past 6 weeks, the US has reported over 13.3 million domesticated birds lost in 50 outbreaks in 17 states. 27 of these outbreaks involved commercial poultry. 385 Infected wild birds have been identified including one in Erie County, Ohio, some 70 km south of Leamington.
- This [USGS map](#) shows the HPAI distribution across North America's 4 migratory bird flyways.

What does this mean for the Ontario poultry industry?

- The risk of an Avian Influenza incursion into Ontario poultry that come in direct or indirect contact with infected wild bird droppings is **high**. The risk to individual flocks will depend on biosecurity vigilance of individual farmers and service providers.
- All poultry growers and service providers should strictly enforce their required [basic biosecurity standards and identify heightened measures](#) that could be implemented if needed in the future
- For the sake of your flock and those of your neighbours', please ensure you are exercising an abundance of biosecurity caution, on and off the farm
- Poultry industry personnel should avoid any direct or indirect contact with wild birds eg hunting, feeding. Avoid introducing wild bird droppings into barns on hands, boots, apparel, equipment
- Look for signs of illness. **If your birds show any signs suggestive of avian influenza, call your veterinarian immediately.**
- FBCC is in the process of enhancing prevention and preparedness risk management strategies. **In the event of HPAI being confirmed in an Ontario small flock or commercial flock, the FBCC will recommend that Heightened Biosecurity measures be applied on all Ontario poultry premises and by industry service providers.**

To help how you protect your flock during this spring migration season the FBCC web site provides links to [biosecurity tips and Avian Influenza disease information](#). Important [contact information for government agencies](#) is also available there.

If you are experiencing higher than usual mortality, it is recommended that you contact your Board or the 24- hour Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) support line **1-877-SOS-BYRD**

Visit www.fbcc.ca for additional resources and [subscribe to FBCC Disease Alerts](#).

