



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201 • (404) 656-3671

**Gary W. Black**  
Commissioner

Respond To:  
Telephone: (404) 656-3671  
Fax: (404) 657-1357  
Email: Robert.Cobb@agr.georgia.gov

June 10, 2015

TO: Georgia Poultry Producers Raising Birds with Outside Access

FROM: Robert M. Cobb, DVM  
State Veterinarian

SUBJECT: Notification and Biosecurity Recommendations regarding the continuing outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

As of June 9, 2015, there have been a total of 228 confirmed positive premises for H5/H7. This number includes 207 commercial facilities and 21 backyard flocks. States that have had positive highly pathogenic avian influenza cases in commercial premises, backyard flocks, captive wild birds or wild birds are Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, Nevada, Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Kansas, New Mexico, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska and Kentucky. Epidemiological reports confirm that the virus is being carried by certain types of wild migratory waterfowl. Flocks in our state that may contact wild migratory waterfowl or their droppings are at a high risk. To attempt to mitigate that risk we are strongly recommending the following steps be taken for the protection of flocks with outside access:

1. Until further notice, move all poultry with outside access into housing immediately.
2. Implement strict biosecurity on these premises. Alert all company personnel, growers, farm workers and service personnel of the increased risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Especially focus biosecurity methods on preventing any exposure to wild waterfowl or their droppings.
3. Monitor all flocks for increased mortality or clinical signs consistent with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and report any concerns to your Veterinarian, State Animal Health Official or Federal Animal Health Official immediately. The consistent clinical sign in all the current reported cases to this point has been a marked rapid increase in mortality over several days.
4. Please contact my office at (404) 656-3671 or the Animal Health Section at (404) 656-3667 with your questions or concerns.