

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: Protecting Oregon's poultry and birds

What is bird flu?

"Bird flu," known as avian influenza or AI, is a disease in birds that causes respiratory and digestive illness. There are many strains of avian influenza, many of which show little or no visible signs of illness and pose no threat to public health. Each year new strains of AI may appear throughout the world.

Is avian flu in Oregon or the US?

There are common strains of AI frequently present in Oregon and US wild bird populations. However, the current AI strain of concern in Asia, which is an H5N1, has never occurred in the western hemisphere.

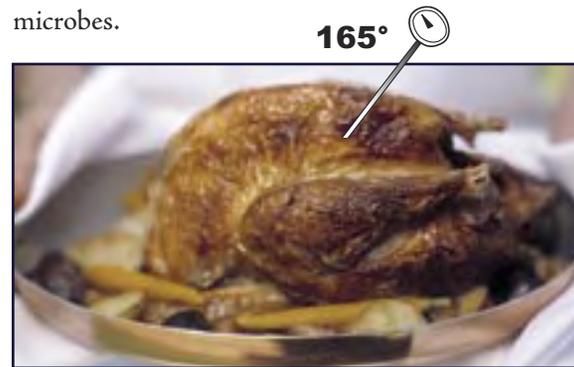
What is ODA doing about AI?

ODA currently has a comprehensive Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan that has been in place since 2004. The program involves

- Meetings with poultry producers to update and improve the ability to respond appropriately to any type of AI event in all management systems.
- AI testing of apparently healthy chickens from flocks across the state.
- AI testing of all birds and poultry submitted for examination at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

Can poultry be safely consumed?

Eating poultry that has been prepared properly is safe. Cooking poultry products to an internal temperature of 165 degrees ensures safety. Proper handling and preparation of poultry products destroys avian influenza, as well as other disease microbes.



The AI host

Wild waterfowl are a reservoir for avian influenza and shed the virus through their feces. If susceptible birds come in contact with infected feces, or other infected secretions, influenza particles enter the bird's respiratory tract, causing the virus to spread.



Allowing domestic poultry and wild birds to mix poses a threat for the transfer of disease.

Preventing the spread of AI

Practicing "backyard biosecurity" minimizes the chance of bringing diseases into your flock and prevents you from carrying disease to other flocks. Following the guidelines on the back of this pamphlet will enable you to keep a healthy flock by preventing the spread of disease and pathogens.

Reporting sick birds

Report sick or dead domestic birds (poultry or pet birds) to

Oregon Department of Agriculture
503-986-4680

Report sick or dead wild birds to local offices of
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Department

1-866-986-2600

For additional information regarding avian influenza contact

ODA State Veterinarian's Office
Oregon Department of Agriculture

635 Capitol Street NE

Salem, Oregon, USA

97301-2532

Telephone: (503) 986-4680

Fax: (503) 986-4734

Know the symptoms

Avian influenza (AI) or “bird flu” is a contagious disease that can infect all types of birds.

Know the signs of AI:

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production or soft shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing
- Loss of motility (acting “dumpy”)
- Diarrhea.



YOU ARE
THE BEST
PROTECTION
YOUR BIRDS
HAVE.

Practice biosecurity

- Wash hands—Everyone handling birds should wash their hands after leaving the birds.
- Do not allow wild birds to come in contact with your birds. Limit contact with other birds and poultry owners and their tools and property.
- Disinfect your cars, trucks, cages, and equipment after coming home from a bird show or fair. Proper sanitation protects against disease.



Look

- Know the signs and symptoms of diseases. Large increases in bird deaths, sneezing, gasping, coughing, nasal discharge, discoloration of wattles/comb are good indicators.



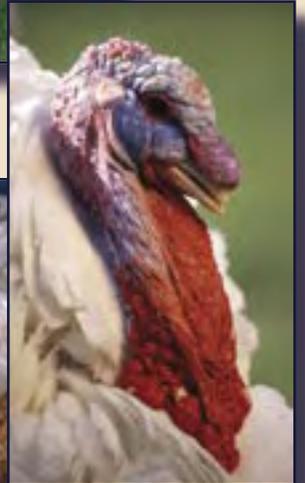
Report

- Don't be afraid to report any suspicious signs to your veterinarian or the ODA State Veterinarian's Office at 503-986-4680.



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Avian Influenza and Biosecurity



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

ODA State
Veterinarian
503-986-4680

USDA Area
Veterinarian
503-399-5871

Web: oregon.gov/ODA/AHID

Aug 2006

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