



October 2025

As fall migration begins, the risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) increases across Oregon. Wild birds—especially waterfowl—are known carriers of the virus and can spread it through interactions with domestic poultry without showing signs of illness. During the fall months, cooler temperatures and increased bird movement heighten the chance of the virus reaching backyard and commercial poultry flocks. Whether you raise chickens, ducks, turkeys, or other birds, now is the time to review your biosecurity practices, watch for signs of illness, and take action to prevent the spread of this deadly disease.

Use this simple checklist to help keep your poultry happy, healthy, and safe all season long!

Limit Exposure to Wild Birds

*Fall brings an influx of **migratory waterfowl**, especially ducks and geese, which can carry HPAI without symptoms.*

- ☐ Keep flocks in a **fully enclosed coop or covered run**
- ☐ **Block access** to shared water sources (ponds, puddles, ditches)
- ☐ Remove or secure spilled feed that may attract wild birds
- ☐ Prevent wild birds from roosting near pens (use netting, covers)

Control Human and Equipment Traffic

With more mud and moisture, fall increases the risk of tracking in contaminated material.

- ☐ Post “**Restricted Access**” signs at coop entrances
- ☐ Provide **dedicated boots and clothing** for poultry areas
- ☐ Set up and maintain **footbaths** with an appropriate disinfectant¹
- ☐ **Do not share** feeders, tools, or cages with other poultry owners
- ☐ **Clean and disinfect** anything that enters the poultry area

Limit Visitors, Traffic, and Other Animal Contact

Hunting season, shared equipment, and fall farm visitors all increase exposure risk.

- ☐ Restrict visitors—only allow those with a clear need
- ☐ Keep dogs, cats, and wild animals out of poultry areas
- ☐ If you hunt or handle wild birds, **shower and change** before tending poultry
- ☐ Keep a simple **logbook** of any visitors or deliveries

Quarantine New or Returning Birds

Fairs, auctions, swaps, and new chick purchases often increase in fall and can increase exposure risk.

- ☐ Quarantine new or returning birds for **at least 30 days**
- ☐ House them **away from the main flock** and monitor for illness
- ☐ Disinfect cages, crates, and transport vehicles

¹ <https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Assets/tipsheet-cd-footwear.pdf>

Protect Feed and Water from Contamination

Wet weather can lead to standing water and attract wild birds.

- ☐ Use **covered feeders and waterers**
- ☐ **Store feed in sealed bins** to prevent attraction of wildlife and potential contamination
- ☐ Refresh water and disinfect waterers **frequently**—especially in wet weather
- ☐ Remove standing water around coop areas

Clean and Disinfect Regularly

Fall mud = more contamination risk.

- ☐ Disinfect tools, boots, cages, and transport containers
- ☐ Change bedding often—keep the coop **clean and dry**
- ☐ Remove mud, wet litter, and feces from coop surroundings
- ☐ Use appropriate disinfectants, such as a 10 percent dilution of bleach (sodium hypochlorite; 1.5 cups of bleach per gallon of total solution), 1% Virkon® S (DuPont), or other approved disinfectant per label instructions.

Watch Closely for Illness and Report

HPAI often appears as sudden death or rapid flock decline.

- ☐ Check flock daily for sudden illness or death
- ☐ Watch for swelling (around the head, neck, and eyes), lethargy, or drop in eggs
- ☐ Isolate sick birds
- ☐ **Report sick or dead birds:**
 - Domestic Poultry/Livestock - ODA Disease Reporting Hotline:** 503-986-4711
 - Wild Birds/Wildlife – ODFW Disease Reporting Hotline²:** 1-866-968-2600

² https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/health_program/avian-flu/index.asp