

Early detection of Avian Influenza symptoms is important.

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing or sneezing
- Lack of coordination
- Diarrhea



Public health & Avian Influenza

- The risk from AI is low to most people.
- Confirmed cases of human AI infection have been reported since 1997.
- Most cases of AI infection in humans have resulted from contact with infected poultry.
- H5N1 virus does not usually infect people, but more than 225 human cases have been reported by the World Health Organization since January 2004.
- H5N1 virus has caused the largest number of detected cases of severe disease and death in humans.
- In the current AI outbreaks in Asia and Europe, more than half of those infected with the virus have died.
- As of June 6, 2006, human cases of influenza A (H5N1) infection have been reported in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Djibouti, and Azerbaijan.
- Experts from around the world are watching the H5N1 situation in Asia and Europe very closely.
- The spread of AI viruses from person to person has been reported very rarely, and transmission has not continued beyond one person.
- If H5N1 virus were to gain the capacity to spread easily from person to person, an influenza pandemic (worldwide outbreak of disease) could result.
- Because humans are not commonly infected with AI viruses, little or no immune protection exists against them in the human population.
- No commercial vaccine is now available to protect humans against the AI H5N1 virus, but vaccine development efforts are underway.



Avian Influenza



What is Avian Influenza (AI)?

- AI is an infection caused by influenza (flu) viruses that occur naturally among birds such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, geese and guinea fowl, as well as a wide variety of other birds
- Wild birds worldwide carry the viruses but usually do not get sick.
- Severe illness and death may occur if susceptible, domesticated birds are exposed.



Two main forms of Avian Influenza

- Low pathogenic forms may go undetected and usually cause only mild symptoms.
- High pathogenic (HP) forms such as some strains of H5N1 may spread more rapidly among flocks and may have a mortality rate that can reach 90-100 percent (often within 48 hours).

Why should North Dakota bird owners be concerned?

- A major North American flyway for migratory birds is over North Dakota and the surrounding area.
- Avian influenza is a reportable disease in North Dakota.
- Early detection of HP avian influenza will allow for a quicker response and aid in minimizing the impact.



Animal health & Avian Influenza

- During late 2003 and early 2004, outbreaks of HP avian influenza H5N1 occurred in eight countries where more than 100 million birds either died from the disease or were killed in order to control the outbreaks.
- Since late June 2004, new outbreaks of HP avian influenza H5N1 among poultry have been reported by several countries in Asia.
- Avian influenza H5N1 infection has been reported among poultry and wild migratory birds in countries on the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe.

The State Board of Animal Health strongly urges all North Dakota poultry producers, regardless of their flock size, to contact their veterinarian or the Board if they have numerous sick birds or large, unexplained die-offs.

The Board urges veterinarians, feed dealers, county agents and other individuals who have contact with poultry producers to help with avian influenza education.

For more information on Avian Influenza

www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/
www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/
www.agdepartment.com/Programs/Livestock/BOAH/AvianInfluenza.htm



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