

**Forsyth County Extension  
1450 Fairchild Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105  
336-703-2855  
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**What is HPAI?:** Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) viruses can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, ducks, etc. All virus strains can potentially spread quickly from flock to flock and kill most infected birds.

**Signs/symptoms of HPAI:** death, respiratory signs such as conjunctivitis and nasal discharge, ruffed feathers, drop in egg production, off color combs and wattles, lack of energy/appetite

**How is HPAI spread?** Initial introduction of the virus via waterfowl during the fall migration (typically September and October) and spread of virus via horizontal transmission from other infected premises such as people, equipment, and manure.

Our surface water temperature will affect the spread. August water temperatures will be 82° (28° C). Minnesota had water temperatures in the mid to upper 50s (13°C) in March and April. HPAI survives up to 100 days in water that is 4°C but only 5 days in water that is 25°C.

#### **How can you protect your chickens?**

- Minimize Risk of Waterfowl by containing your flock indoors
- Observe waterfowl/raptors – look for sick birds and report them
- Remove surface water/Don't allow access to it (even your dog)
- Consider all ducks as being positive for the disease
- Exclude passerines (sparrows and chickadees) from poultry housing
- Exclude rodents and other animals that seek food
- Change your shoes and clothing before going in with your flock
- Avoid visiting farms with poultry and swine (they are carriers)

## **5 Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases.**

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft- or thin-shelled misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs (AI)
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (END)

Early detection is important to prevent the spread of disease.



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### **Key Points**

- There is no evidence that humans can become infected with this HPAI
- The US has the best surveillance system in the world for HPAI
- NC has not had HPAI to date
- If detected HPAI infected flocks will not enter the food chain so poultry meat and eggs will continue to be a healthy wholesome food product
- People who own backyard or pastured poultry should keep them contained (away from wild birds) September and October.
- Poultry (and pets) should have no access to surface water (ponds, lakes, etc.) during the fall migration (Sept-Oct)

All poultry shows and public sales are banned from August 15th to January 15th as a precaution. This includes the poultry show at the Dixie Classic Fair.

### **IF YOU SEE SIGNS IN YOUR BIRDS OR ANY OTHER BIRDS – REPORT IT!**

NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services 919-733-7601

Federal Department of Agriculture 1-866-536-7593

If you have Poultry, you are required to register your flock (even if you only have one). Registering is a pretty simple process by going to the North Carolina Dept. of Ag & Consumer Services -NCFARMID website (<http://www.ncagr.gov/ncfarmid/>) and register or contact the Office of the State Veterinarian, N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 919-733-7601.

To learn more, subscribe to the Forsyth Extension Poultry newsletter (this is different than registering your flock) at <http://go.ncsu.edu/ForsythPoultrySubscribe> or scan this QR code with your QR reader on your smart phone and enter your contact information. We will do our best to keep you up to date on information as it becomes available. If you need help registering call April Bowman, Forsyth County Extension Agent, Livestock, Forages and 4-H Youth Development at 336-703-2855 or email her at [awbowman@ncsu.edu](mailto:awbowman@ncsu.edu).



*Adapted by April Bowman, Extension Agent, Livestock, Forages and 4-H Youth Development, Forsyth County and Ben Chase, Extension Agent, Agriculture and Livestock, Rockingham and Guilford Counties from Power Point Presentation "Avian Influenza: Managing the Risk" by Dr. Donna Carver, Prestage Department of Poultry Science*