

PROTECT YOUR FLOCK from avian influenza

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In 2022 AI viruses were detected in the US. Contact with the feces of wild birds can introduce the virus into small flocks via direct contact with ducks and geese outdoors or on shoes and equipment brought indoors.

What is avian influenza?

Avian influenza is a viral disease of poultry. It can be of low pathogenicity (LPAI), causing mild disease, or of high pathogenicity (HPAI), causing severe disease and death. There are different strains of the virus, for example H1N1 or H7N3. Some AI LPAI viruses can mutate and become HPAI viruses. Waterfowl contribute to the spread of avian influenza.

How do I recognize the disease in my birds?

LPAI can resemble any other mild respiratory disease (noise, swollen faces, conjunctivitis). In breeders, egg production drops and eggshells may be soft. With HPAI, birds may become quiet, not eat and drink, have diarrhea, and have discolored combs and feet. Birds may also die suddenly with no signs of disease.



How do I prevent avian influenza in my small flock?

Use dedicated footwear and wash your hands when tending your flock.

Do not let poultry drink untreated water from lakes and ponds.

Do not let waterfowl become residents close to small domestic flocks.

Do not come into direct contact with your flocks if you have seen birds in another country or been involved with hunting, or in contact with any other birds (zoos, auctions, flea markets, live bird markets).

**Questions about avian influenza in Georgia?
Call the Ga. Dept. of Ag at 404-656-3600.**

What do I do if I suspect my birds have AI?

**Testing for AI is free through the Georgia Poultry Lab Network.
Call the AI Hot line
770-766-6850.**