

From: Bothfeld, Diane [Diane.Bothfeld@state.vt.us]
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 12:07 PM
To: Coriell, Scott; Allen, Susan
CC: Ross, Chuck
Subject: Avian Influenza in Chickens - letter to producers not a press release
Attachments: AI One Pager.doc

Scott and Sue,

OR and WA have reported case of highly pathogenic avian influenza in both wild birds and backyard chicken flocks. The NE state vets and our USDA partners had a call yesterday to discuss outreach and how to raise awareness encouraging local producers to practice good disease prevention methods. We (USDA and state vets) put together the one pager and I was hoping you could review it and give your blessing before I provide it to stakeholders.

The Agency would like to send this one pager along with a pdf on biosecurity practices for poultry to a number of partners, such as UVM extension, the VT Bird Fanciers Assoc, Rural VT, our internal list of vets that see poultry. Could also send to poultry processors and the meat inspectors to keep an eye out.

This is not a human disease issue but would like to let poultry producers know.

Any issues with us sending this out?

Diane



AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS

Animal Health Section

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12/23/2014

Dear Vermont Poultry Producer,

The Animal Health Section of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets would like to make you aware of current cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza occurring in birds in the states of Oregon and Washington. One strain, H5N8, has been found in a backyard flock in Oregon. In Washington, the strain H5N2 has been found in northern pintail ducks and H5N8 in captive Gyrfalcons that were fed hunter-killed wild birds. Neither strain has been found in commercial poultry anywhere in the United States nor there is any known human disease associated with these viruses. Both H5N2 and H5N8 viruses have been found in other parts of the world and have not caused any human infection.

All bird owners, whether commercial producers or backyard enthusiasts, are encouraged to practice good biosecurity, prevent contact between their birds and wild birds, and to report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, either through your state veterinarian or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.

Resources for Poultry Producers

What does High Pathogenic Avian Influenza look like in birds?

- Disease Images Avian Influenza: Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/disease-images.php?name=avian-influenza&lang=en>
- Fast Facts: Avian Influenza, Bird Flu Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/FastFacts/pdfs/avian_influenza_F.pdf
- Clinical signs
 - Sudden death (flocks may see a large number of deaths)
 - Drop in egg production
 - Neurological signs such as circling or paralysis
 - Depression or loss of appetite
 - Ruffled feathers
 - Swollen combs
 - Cyanotic (blue tint to normally pink areas of skin due to lack of oxygen)
 - Conjunctivitis (red, runny eyes)
 - Respiratory signs

What steps can you take to reduce the chances of your birds becoming exposed?

- Practice good biosecurity (Biosecurity for Birds Website: <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov/>)
 - Posters, slides, visual fact sheets and more, some in Spanish, are available to help you teach yourself and your staff how to reduce the chances that your birds will become sick.
- Limit exposure of your birds to migratory wild birds.
- Report unusual, or unexpected, sickness or death to the Animal Health Section of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets at: **(802) 828-2421**.

