Pennsylvania
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services

October 8, 2026

Dear Pennsylvania Poultry Producers,

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (H5N1) continues to be a threat to Pennsylvania's poultry industry. Movement of wild birds continues, carrying a heightened risk of introduction into our flocks. Nationwide, in the past 30 days, 21 confirmed infected flocks have been reported (including 12 commercial premises), with ***0.55 million birds*** affected in 8 states. In Pennsylvania, there are currently no premises under quarantine due to HPAI. Current cases in domestic poultry are rising and are predicted to continue as fall wild bird migration increases.

Detections in wild birds continue. The D1.1 genotype poses a threat to both poultry and dairy cows and is the predominate strain in all US flyways at this time. Please report dead wild birds to the PA Game Commission 833-PGC-WILD or USDA Wildlife Services at 717-236-9451 or 866-487-3297.

The Department strongly encourages all poultry producers to implement heightened biosecurity practices as the fall migration season begins. These practices should focus on preventing contact between poultry and wild birds. Biosecurity plans should be updated at least every two years and submitted to RA-AGBIOPLANS@pa.gov for review. **The Department recommends maintaining poultry indoors through migration season. All producers should assess the risk to their poultry and make informed decisions about allowing outdoor access.** This risk will be reassessed in December 2026, or earlier if needed, and an updated recommendation will be provided at that time.

The Department strongly urges all poultry producers who have not already done so to take advantage of the Wildlife Biosecurity Assessments offered by USDA Wildlife Services. This is one of the best tools available to prevent introduction of disease onto your premises. Premises who have already started this process will be better prepared to obtain assistance with wildlife mitigation if new wildlife hazards are found. Please contact USDA WS at 717-236-9451 or 866-487-3297 to arrange an assessment.

Producers should be implementing strict biosecurity practices at all times, monitoring bird health, and reporting any unexplained mortality and morbidity in a flock to the Department at 717-772-2852, option 1 (24/7).

Thank you,

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