



Situation Report: March 16, 2022

Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Office of State Veterinarian responds to Avian Influenza in Kentucky

BACKGROUND: On Feb. 14, 2022, USDA and state officials announced a confirmed case of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was identified in a single commercial broiler chickens in Fulton County, Kentucky, near the Tennessee border.

HPAI is known to be deadly for domesticated fowl. On Feb. 11, a commercial chicken operation in Fulton County alerted the Kentucky Department of Agriculture of an increase in poultry deaths. Testing at the Breathitt Veterinary Center and the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the presence of HPAI in samples from the commercial chicken operation.

After the Fulton County premises tested positive, samples from a Webster County turkey flock were also confirmed at the Breathitt Veterinary Center Laboratory and NVSL.

State officials quarantined the affected premises and depopulated the flocks. Federal and state partners began working jointly on additional surveillance and testing of commercial and backyard poultry flocks in the area and established an incident command center in Fulton County.

The KDA established a 10 kilometer surveillance zone around the detected properties. Working with the Kentucky Poultry Federation and other industry partners, KDA began notifying all poultry owners – backyard and commercial operators – to keep birds indoors to prevent the spread of high path avian influenza. Those in the surveillance zones in and around Fulton and Webster counties have additional restrictions.

Avian influenza does not present a food safety risk; poultry and eggs are safe to eat when handled and cooked properly. There is no risk to the food supply, but birds from the flocks will not enter the food system. No human cases of avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States.

CURRENT SITUATION AS OF 3/16/2022:

- **No new positive premises have been identified.**
- All surveillance testing in the Fulton and Webster Control Areas has been completed with negative results.

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- On Saturday, March 12, 2022, the Webster Control Area quarantine was released. The infected Webster County Infected Premises remains under quarantine as composting continues.
- On Tuesday March 15, 2022, the Fulton Control Area quarantine was released. The infected Fulton County Infected Premises remains under quarantine as composting continues.
- KDA, USDA, and industry stakeholders continue to provide outreach to bird enthusiasts to report sick birds and practice good biosecurity to protect the health of Kentucky's poultry.

RESOURCES:

Signs of Avian Influenza: [kyagr.com/HPAI](https://www.kyagr.com/HPAI)

Avian Influenza Frequently Asked Questions: [kyagr.com/HPAI](https://www.kyagr.com/HPAI)

Keep up to date on Kentucky's response and sign up for updates: [kyagr.com/HPAI](https://www.kyagr.com/HPAI)

Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks: <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>

KDA Alert Flyer: https://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/HPAI_Avian_Influenza_HANDOUT.pdf