



# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)



## Information from the USDA & CO. Dept. of Agriculture

The Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza disease is making its way across the United States in 2022. The United States Department of Agriculture lists HPAI as, “a serious disease and requires rapid response because it is highly contagious and often fatal to chickens. APHIS works with its federal, state, local and industry partners to quickly mobilize a response to any HPAI findings. The goal is to quickly contain and eradicate the disease, protecting our poultry industry, and in turn, the American consumer.” (Aphis USDA). The USDA Aphis department hasn’t detected HPAI in wild birds in the United States since 2016 but in January of 2022 the disease was confirmed to be reappearing in South Carolina in a Wild American wigeon. From there the disease has spread to the west side of the United States and as of March 30th, 2022, the state closest to Colorado reporting the disease in domesticated flocks was Wyoming.

### Symptoms of HPAI include the following:

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of head, comb, eyelid, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of wattles, comb, and legs
- Nasal discharge, coughing and sneezing
- Incoordination
- Diarrhea



The best way to protect your flock is to practice biosecurity measures and to keep your birds separated from wild birds. The USDA has put together a program called Defend the Flock that has various tools and resources to help all poultry producers create a biosecurity program that works best for their operation.

You can check out all those resources by clicking here:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/defend-the-flock-program>

If you suspect that you have infected birds, you need to immediately call any of the numbers listed below. Early detection is key.

### Who to Call?

- CDA State Veterinarian’s Office
  - 303-869-9130
  - Veterinarian on call 24/7
- CSU Avian Health Team
  - 970-297-4008
  - Not answered nights/weekends
- USDA Healthy Bird Hotline
  - 866-536-7593



Additional resources regarding the HPAI disease can be found using the various links below that will take you to various USDA and CDA websites.

- **USDA Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Information Website:** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/defend-the-flock-hpai>
- **Poultry Biosecurity Website:** <https://poultrybiosecurity.org/>
- **HPAI USDA Detection:** <https://ag.colorado.gov/press-release/hpai-detected-in-midwest-colorado-poultry-operations-should-prepare-by-increasing>