

## February 2022 FBCC Reportable Disease Summary

### North American High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1

In recent weeks, a highly contagious and deadly strain of bird influenza that ravaged several European and Asian countries has been popping up across the eastern half of North America. This virus is killing both wild birds, backyard flocks and commercial poultry. There are rising concerns of a repeat of the 2015 outbreak that resulted in the loss of over 50 million poultry and significantly impacted trade. Despite swift government action to depopulate and disinfect infected premises, this virus is spreading in areas where poultry may directly or indirectly contact droppings from migrating waterfowl. The coming weeks will test the biosecurity upgrades that farms, businesses, and government agencies have made since 2015.

#### Canada: HPAI H5N1 poultry outbreaks

Since early December, HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed in **5 poultry premises**: 2 commercial and 3 backyard/captive flocks, all in the provinces of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Some 13,252 birds were involved. Mortality has been as high as 85%. All surviving birds have been culled and recovery procedures are underway.

In addition, there have been 7 wild bird incidents where H5N1 was detected, and 6 incidents reported as H5+ve. On Feb 25, the government of British Columbia reported a bald eagle at a rehab facility that died of HPAI H5. This is the first HPAI incident on the Pacific coast.

DATE	LOCATION	FLOCK TYPE	# OF BIRDS
Dec. 9	Avalon, Nfld.	Mixed exhibition	419
Dec. 31	Avalon, Nfld.	backyard	18
Jan 23	Halifax, NS	backyard	55
Feb 3	Kings County, NS	Commercial turkeys	11,800
Feb 11	Hants Municipality, NS	Commercial mixed	960

#### United States: HPAI H5N1 poultry outbreaks

Since early February, HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed in **15 infected poultry premises**: 8 commercial in states of Indiana, Kentucky, and Delaware plus 7 backyard flocks in Virginia, New York, Maine, and Michigan. A total of **1,604,749 birds** have died or been culled in order to stamp out the disease.

As of February 23, HPAI has been confirmed in 297 wild bird incidents in 13 different eastern states.

DATE	LOCATION	FLOCK TYPE	# OF BIRDS
Feb 7	Dubois County, Indiana	Commercial turkeys	29,000
Feb 12	Fulton County, Kentucky	Broiler chickens	246,000
Feb 12	Fauquier County, Virginia	Mixed backyard	119
Feb 15	Webster County, Kentucky	Commercial turkeys	56,400
Feb 16	Dubois county, Indiana	Commercial turkeys	26,625
Feb 17	Green County, Indiana	Commercial turkeys	48,211
Feb 19	Green County, Indiana	Commercial turkeys	15,400
Feb 19	Suffolk County, Long Island, NY	backyard	8
Feb 20	Knox County, Maine	Mixed backyard	27
Feb 23	Dubois County, Indiana	Commercial turkeys	35908
Feb 23	New Castle County, Delaware	Commercial egg layer	1,146,937
Feb 23	Kalamazoo County, Michigan	backyard	39
Feb 23	Knox county, Maine	backyard	75
Feb 24	Ulster county, NY	Captive wild bird	
Feb 24	Duchess county, NY	Mixed backyard	

### Keeping Avian Influenza out of your flock

So far, the number of infected poultry farms remains quite low, but it will remain so only if the entire industry enhances its biosecurity against HPAI. Whether you own a small backyard coop or operate a large commercial enterprise, you should review your biosecurity structures and procedures and ensure everyone is rigorously adhering to your program. The [Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(CFIA\)](#) and the [Ontario Animal Health Network](#) have produced **excellent Avian Influenza Infographics**. The best defense against the introduction of AI into a poultry barn is [STRICT BIOSECURITY](#). See the [CFIA web site](#) for more detailed information on protecting your flock from Avian Influenza.

Outbreaks in commercial flocks occur sporadically in areas where the virus has been detected in wild birds or outdoor flocks. All flocks that share a common feed source and service personnel with an infected index farm are also at risk.

There is a greater risk to avian influenza if any of the following conditions exist:

- Poultry is housed outside.
- There are ponds or other wild bird attractions on the farm.
- Piles of debris are located close to poultry areas.
- Poultry from other farms are introduced to flocks without a quarantine period.
- Farmers lack personal protective equipment, such as dedicated coveralls and boots.
- Equipment is shared between farms.
- There is unrestricted human movement and interaction with poultry.

Intensive health monitoring of your flock is essential. Early detection is critical to ensure rapid containment of a potential outbreak. If your birds are quiet and lethargic with decreased water consumption or are experiencing production drops, bleeding, or swelling or unusually high mortality, a veterinarian needs to be called immediately. **All sampling and other diagnostic procedures must be conducted under veterinary direction.** This is the time for heightened vigilance.

### Public health

While HPAI H5N1 virus is potentially zoonotic, it is believed to pose a minimal risk to public health and is primarily considered a threat to wild birds and poultry. However, some people may be at a higher risk of infection than others based on their exposures to infected birds, particularly poultry workers or hunters. For more information, visit these links to the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [US Centre for Disease Control](#) and [US Dept of Agriculture](#).

### Important contact numbers:

- Your veterinarian
- If you are experiencing higher than usual mortality, it is recommended that you contact your Board or the 24- hour Feather Board Command Centre (FBCC) support line **1-877-SOS-BYRD**
- HPAI is a federally reportable disease. Veterinarians or poultry growers/farmers who suspect Avian Influenza are to report to the **Canadian Food Inspection Agency hot line 877-814-2342** or the [District Animal Health Office](#).
- Individuals are encouraged to report findings of sick or dead waterfowl and shorebirds to the [Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative](#) information line **1-866-673-4781**
- If you are a small flock grower, you are urged to register in the Chicken Farmers of Ontario [Family Food Grower Program](#) to access helpful disease information and receive notice of infectious poultry diseases in your community.

- Please consider [registering for access to the FBCC website](#) for detailed information on local and global federally reportable and provincially notifiable poultry diseases and [subscribe to FBCC Disease Alerts](#).

## Global Avian Influenza summary

There were 236 poultry flocks (over 9 million birds) destroyed in February, lowest since October 2021. Since September 2021, there have been a total of 1687 flocks infected with HPAI (almost entirely H5N1). Some 46.7 million poultry have died or were culled in this season. [Here is a link to the FBCC global reportable disease data compilation.](#)

Since October 2021 Europe has experienced 2491 HPAI H5 infected wild bird incidents in 34 countries. Germany has detected the most outbreaks in wild species (1014), followed by UK (201) the Netherlands (352), and Denmark (61).

### Bulgaria

Jan 31 4000 bird layer flock for 10<sup>th</sup> outbreak this season.

### Czech Republic

This month H5N1 was diagnosed in a commercial duck farm and 3 backyard flocks for a total of 17 flocks this season, resulting in loss of close to 200,000 birds

### Denmark

An 800-bird layer flock with 50% mortality in southern tip of Holbaek, west of Copenhagen. 11 flocks lost this season (258,112 birds)

### France

In this winter season, France's first HPAI outbreak was confirmed at the end of November. Since then, 4.18 million poultry in 388 flocks have been culled as part of population reduction efforts to control spread. This total comprises 371 commercial farms, and 17 backyard flocks. Of these, 3.44 million were in southwestern departments. Close to 3.5 million poultry — mainly ducks in the southwest of the country — were culled in France during the 2020-2021 winter.

### Germany

Nine more flocks (120,090 birds) were struck with H5N1 this month, 5 of them commercial farms. Germany has lost more than 730,000 birds in the 69 flocks destroyed since late October.

### Italy

The Italian epidemic appears to be receding as there have been only 3 backyard flocks and one small commercial flock reported in the last month. Since mid-October Italy has lost close to 14.7 million poultry from 312 flocks that were culled due to HPAI H5N1.

### Netherlands

1.47 million poultry have died or been culled to control the spread of the virus. 10 more flocks (437,000 birds) succumbed in February. There have been 36 infected flocks this season.

### Poland

Seven new infected flocks reported in February. Since the beginning of the season, Poland has confirmed HPAI H5N1 in 87 flocks resulting in loss of close to 2 million birds.

### Portugal

Six new cases in February for a total of 11 flocks (7 commercial and 4 small flocks) since beginning of outbreaks in mid December. A total of 228,287 birds have died or been culled.

#### **UK**

February saw 11 more flocks infected. There have been 99 HPAI H5N1 poultry outbreaks linked to the H5N1 virus variant this winter in the UK (82 in England, 6 in Scotland, 5 in Wales and 6 in Northern Ireland.) Over 2.4 million birds have perished.

#### **Romania**

In February, Romania reported its first HPAI H5N1 case this season- a 65 bird backyard flock.

#### **Russia**

In early February, HPAI H5N1 was detected in 4 turkey flocks in Stavropol, North Caucasus. A total of 186,615 birds died or were culled.

#### **Spain**

Since the first HPAI case in Spain in mid-January, 17 other outbreaks have occurred this month. 679,804 birds have died or been culled in 18 flocks, 15 of these in southern region of Andalusia and 3 in Castile and León in the north. Mortality rate is over 70% in recent cases.

#### **Cameroon**

A 13,513-bird 52-week-old layer flock was confirmed with H5N1 in Kongso in the western region.

#### **Ivory Coast**

There have been two waves of outbreaks of H5N1 HPAI virus between July and November in 2021. Some 418,000 birds have died or been culled near Camoe, close to the Ghana border.

#### **Niger**

Three flocks- a commercial and 2 backyard flocks – have tested positive for H5N1 in December and January. Total poultry involved so far is around 19,200.

#### **Nigeria**

Cases were confirmed at 28 premises in 6 different states during January 11-25. FAO indicates there have been 140 infected farms since October 2021 resulting in the loss of 711,667 birds.

#### **India**

12 more cases from Nov. and Dec. were reported. All 20 cases from this period, involving 169,334 free range ducks, were in Kerala state. In February, H5N1 was diagnosed in a captive flock of 3859 birds at a Research Centre in Bihar. OIE also reported 3 flocks (28,308 birds) in west Maharashtra north of Thane.

#### **Nepal**

Since January, Nepal has identified 5 HPAI H5N1 infected farms in the Morang district bordering the Indian state of Bihar and 8 outbreaks in the Koshi district in the East province affecting 29,160 birds.

#### **Japan**

The number of HPAI outbreaks confirmed in Japan this winter has risen to **16**. Of these, 14 flocks were the H5N1 virus, and 2 flocks were the H5N8 variant.

#### **South Korea**

Seventeen new H5N1 infected flocks have been confirmed this month for a total of 45 cases since November. More than 4.8 million poultry have perished.

#### **Taiwan**

In contrast to other nations, infections with the H5N2 HPAI virus have caused 21 outbreaks since November 2021. Affecting around 322,500 poultry in total, all cases have been on commercial farms.

#### **Vietnam**

Since the first H5N1 cases were confirmed in mid-October, 9 village flocks (31,744 birds) have been culled in four regions. An H5N8 series of cases has also affected 27 flocks (44,204 birds) last fall.

#### **Philippines**

During January and February there were 3 quail flocks and 1 duck flock confirmed with H5N1 resulting in the culling of 78,280 birds in an area north-west of Manila in north Bulacan.

### **Ontario reportable diseases:**

#### **Newcastle Disease Paramyxovirus-1**

A 3<sup>rd</sup> case of PPMV-1 has been diagnosed in a hobby pigeon flock in the southern Ontario town of Tottenham. The CFIA quarantined and imposed movement controls on the premises. The owner voluntarily euthanized the birds. The quarantine will remain in place until clean-up is completed.

#### **Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT)**

ILT Biosecurity Advisories established during January for Hastings and Frontenac counties have now been lifted by the FBCC.