

FBCC Disease Summary: Avian Influenza April 2022

May 5, 2022

In these first four months of 2022, the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1 has hit North America with the same ferocity that has been seen in Europe and Africa since October 2021. Globally, close to 100 million birds have been lost during this avian influenza season. This [USGS map](#) clearly shows the wide geographic distribution across the North American continent.

Most of these cases are considered point source and being attributed to migratory and other wild birds becoming directly or indirectly exposed to poultry. This ongoing high wild bird infection pressure will expose any biosecurity weaknesses, resulting in more outbreaks. Increasing temperature and sunlight should reduce the level of environmental contamination as higher temperatures, sunlight intensity and day length reduce virus survival, environmental decay will be occurring at a faster rate.

Canada

In total since December 2021 there have been 63 poultry flocks infected with HPAI in 9/10 provinces. All but six of these outbreaks have occurred in the last five weeks. As of April 28, [the CFIA web site](#) reported a total of 1,372,400 birds dead or culled.

Based on Canadian data provided from 55 infected flocks to the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) as of April 29, FBCC has noted some general trends:

- Approximately 25% of these flocks are small non-commercial flocks.
- Broiler breeders make up 22% of the infected flocks and 48% of the total birds lost.
- Turkeys make up about 15% of the infected flocks but only about 9% of the birds died or culled.
- Commercial ducks make up 18% of the infected flocks and over 25% of birds impacted.
- Other production types (broiler chickens, table egg layers, vaccine egg layers, mixed commercial, game and exhibition birds) make up approximately 20% of flocks and 17% of birds

The first HPAI outbreak in Ontario was confirmed on March 25. Subsequently there have been 16 commercial and 6 small flocks infected across the province.

United States

Some 36.77million birds have died or been culled across 32 US states since the first case on February 7. As of May 4, 279 flocks have been hit, 171 of them commercial flocks. ([USDA web site](#))

According to analysis by the [US Farm Bureau Federation](#), turkeys make up 49% of the infected flocks but only 15% of birds lost; on the other hand, layers made up 6% of the flocks but 74% of the culled birds. Some 2.3 million broiler chickens were lost, making up about 6% of the infected birds. There were also a few broiler breeder, several game bird, commercial ducks and captive bird flocks.

International Situation

- During April, there were 651 new infected flocks, with some 355 of these in France.
- 15 million birds in 1394 flocks have been culled due to H5N1 in France this season.
 - In April significant outbreaks have occurred in Bulgaria, Hungary, Netherlands, Nigeria and Japan

- Close to 98 million birds have died or been culled internationally since September 2021.
- 2,620 poultry flocks have been infected since September 2021 in 51 countries.
- See [LINK](#) for FBCC's unofficial table of global HPAI data.