

## Avian Influenza Reminder to Small Flock Owners

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) would like your help in reminding all small flock owners how to keep their birds healthy during this upcoming wild bird migration season.

Migration season increases the risk for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) which can cause severe illness and death in all domesticated birds. HPAI cases have been reported in wild birds in eastern Canada and several states in the U.S..

Please, help us communicate to small flock owners on the importance of protecting their flock, their neighbours' flock, and

the Ontario poultry industry by implementing biosecurity measures and reporting any signs of disease to your veterinarian immediately.

As a reminder, biosecurity measures include:

- ensuring that birds with outdoor access do not share areas with wild birds or other animals.
- make sure free-range areas do not have attractions for wild waterfowl (i.e. ponds or open feeders) that may become contaminated with bird droppings
- frequently clean poultry coops, waterers, feeders, clothing, boots, and equipment,
- limit exposure to visitors, and
- keep new birds separate when entering the flock.

Contact a veterinarian immediately if your birds are showing signs of sickness such as:

- lack of energy, movement, or appetite,
- · decrease in egg production,
- swelling around the head, neck and eyes,
- · coughing, gasping for air or sneezing,
- · tremors or lack of coordination, and
- diarrhea

I've attached some materials to print and post around your workplace or hand-out to your customers. Additional resources can be found at:

1. https://www.ontario.ca/page/raise-healthy-small-flock-poultry

## 2. <a href="https://www.oahn.ca/network/all-poultry-network/small-flock/">https://www.oahn.ca/network/all-poultry-network/small-flock/</a>

Thank you in advance for your co-operation as we continue to protect Ontario's poultry industry.

