

FBCC Spring 2026 Update Migration and Biosecurity Reminder

April 6, 2026

FBCC would like to remind all Ontario poultry producers that spring is a high-risk period for HPAI due to wild bird migrations. All producers and industry partners should rigorously follow their daily biosecurity protocols during this high-risk season and heightened biosecurity measures where necessary to help prevent disease spread in the province and among poultry flocks.

REMINDER FOR ALL POULTRY FARMERS & INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

We strongly encourage all poultry farmers and industry partners to follow heightened biosecurity measures (found [HERE](#)).

Farmers are reminded that in the case of high-risk activity, they should have appropriate biosecurity personal protective equipment (PPE) available for themselves, their employees, and anyone entering their premises. Ministry of Health PPE recommendations for Ontario workers at various degrees of risk of exposure to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) can be found [here](#).

CLINICAL SIGNS OF HPAI IN POULTRY

Clinical signs of HPAI in domestic poultry may include:

- high and sudden morbidity and mortality rate
- decrease in feed and water consumption
- extreme depression
- drop in egg production
- signs of septicemia

Should you suspect any signs of health concerns in your flock, contact your veterinarian immediately and notify your board.

SICK AND DEAD WILDLIFE AND BIRDS ON YOUR PROPERTY

Farmers should report sick or dead wild birds and wildlife found on their property to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) by calling 1-866-673-4781 or by emailing on-nu@cwbc-rscf.ca. Avoid direct contact with live or dead wildlife, including wild birds. If you must handle sick or dead wildlife or wild birds, follow [guidance on protecting yourself when handling wildlife](#).



CURRENT SITUATION

Detections of HPAI in wild birds and wildlife, including mammals, continue to be reported in [Canada](#) and the [United States of America](#).

In Ontario, there are currently 2 farms with active HPAI quarantine restrictions. There is 1 active commercial Security Zone in the Town of Amherstburg. As of April 2, there are 21 additional premises across Canada with active HPAI quarantine restrictions, including both commercial and non-commercial poultry.

In the last 30 days, HPAI has also been detected in 34 commercial flocks and 23 backyard flocks in the United States of America. [Details can be found here.](#)

HPAI RISK FACTOR RESEARCH STUDY

A collaborative research project funded, in part by Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance included a study that compared farm and biosecurity practices on infected and noninfected commercial turkey meat farms in QC and ON to identify significant risk factors of HPAI introduction. The initial results of risk factor assessment are summarized in the infographic below, and can be accessed on the [FBCC website](#).

Tips to Protect Your Farm from Avian Flu

Avoid These Practices	Adopt These Practices
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">Moving turkeys outdoors without proper decontamination</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">Leaving dead turkeys outside for a short time, without protection</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">Composting dead turkeys in an open system or shed</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">Collecting dead turkeys by rendering truck near barns</div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; color: red;">❌</div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">Ship turkeys to slaughter in a single load (all-out)</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">Keep clean bedding protected from wildlife or avoid storing it</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">Remove mortalities from barns regularly and safely</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">Raise turkeys on concrete floors instead of dirt</div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; color: green;">✅</div>
<h4 style="margin: 0;">Higher-Risk Farm Features</h4> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; font-size: 0.8em;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div>Proximity to an infected commercial poultry farm</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div>Large farm: many production cycles, barns or employees</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div>Hired farm manager in charge</div> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; color: white;">⚠️</div>	

Lamer et al., 2025, in preparation. Created with Canva and AI tools (including Copilot).