

FBCC Fall 2026 Migration and Biosecurity Reminder

October 19, 2026

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

REMINDER FOR ALL POULTRY FARMERS AND INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

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

Farmers are reminded that 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

HPAI is a federally reportable disease if detected in any species. 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 using their online reporting form, by emailing on-nu@cwhe-rcsf.ca, or by calling 1-866-673-4781. Farmers should avoid direct contact with live or dead wildlife, including wild birds, if at all possible. If you must handle sick or dead wildlife or wild birds, follow [guidance on protecting yourself when handling wildlife and review](#) OMAFA's [Animal health update, highly pathogenic avian influenza \(October 2, 2026\)](#) for additional guidance on handling dead wildlife and considerations for PPE and Human health.

CURRENT SITUATION

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



Across Canada, there are 14 commercial and non-commercial poultry premises under HPAI quarantine and subject to CFIA restrictions. In Ontario, as of October 19, 2026, there are currently no active HPAI quarantine restrictions on commercial or non-commercial poultry premises reported to FBCC.

In the last 30 days, HPAI has also been detected in 6 commercial flocks and 14 backyard flocks in the United States of America. [Details can be found HERE.](#)

CFIA HPAI Epidemiological Findings in Different Species/Productions

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has made available a summary of the findings of several case-control studies comparing the relative risks of HPAI infection in various provinces and amongst production types between January 2022 and April 2026. The presentation can be accessed on FBCC.ca in [English](#) and in [French](#).

Stay up to date by signing up for disease alerts from FBCC [here](#).