

If you suspect disease

Owners should report unusual signs of illness to the state veterinarian's office, the U.S. Department of Agriculture or their local veterinarian. Warning signs of bird diseases:

- sneezing
- coughing
- nasal discharge
- diarrhea
- listlessness
- sudden death of multiple birds

A WSDA veterinarian or technician will provide free phone consultation in the event of any avian health incident.



Avian Health Hotline: 1-800-606-3056

Leonard Eldridge, DVM
Washington State Veterinarian
Department of Agriculture
1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 42560
Olympia WA 98504-2560
(360) 902-1878

For more information:

www.agr.wa.gov

www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity

www.pandemicflu.gov



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Do you need this publication in an alternate format? Please call the WSDA Receptionist at (360) 902-1976.

Photos:

Chicks & ducklings—MSN stock photo

Four goslings—Della Huff

Two chicks—Iwan Beijes

Duckling—Saladin Pasalic

Washington State Department of Agriculture



AVIAN HEALTH PROGRAM

Protecting your flocks

*You are the best protection
your birds have*



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1-800-606-3056**



Disease threats to birds

Avian influenza, Exotic Newcastle Disease, and other diseases present a continuing threat to the health of Washington's poultry. While no major avian health outbreaks have occurred in Washington, bird owners should be aware of the warning signs and take steps to minimize their animals' risk of disease exposure.

Avian influenza (AI) or bird flu is a viral disease that can affect most species of domestic poultry, as well as migratory wildfowl and shore birds. There are many different varieties of AI that naturally occur in Washington and around the world. The vast majority of these AI viruses do not kill infected birds. They do not impact human health.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza is of greater concern to veterinarians and commercial poultry operations because of the large numbers of infected birds that can die from an outbreak of the disease. The strain known as Asian H5N1 receives the most attention because of the health threat to humans who live in close contact with diseased birds. **No highly pathogenic AI has ever been detected in Washington.**

WSDA surveillance

To protect the health of the state's poultry flocks from all types of avian diseases, WSDA has established a disease surveillance, testing and response program. WSDA veterinarians and technicians are looking for contagious avian diseases at:

- Backyard flocks near wild bird habitat
- Small egg and fryer operations
- Poultry processing plants
- Upland gamebird breeders
- Fairs, exhibits and shows
- Auctions and swap meets
- Farmers markets selling eggs

Large commercial poultry producers (more than 75,000 birds) have existing testing programs conducted by their private veterinarians.



If a disease outbreak is detected, WSDA's response plan calls for humane disposal of the infected animals. **No diseased birds would be allowed to enter the food supply.**

Protect your flocks

By practicing good biosecurity, bird owners can minimize the potential for disease. WSDA veterinarians can assist bird owners to develop sanitation and biosecurity plans. Major commercial poultry operations have been practicing biosecurity for years and the same precautions can maintain the health of smaller flocks:

- Keep your distance.
- Keep it clean.
- Don't haul disease home.
- Don't borrow disease from your neighbor.
- Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases.
- Report sick birds.



Viruses and bacteria are in the droppings of many chicks and ducklings