

FACT SHEET

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)



What it looks like

Infected birds may show signs of:

- Respiratory distress
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Swollen head
- Blue discoloration of comb and wattles
- Significant drop in egg production

What it can do

avian influenza is highly contagious among birds and can cause:

- Severe illness and in some cases death
- Devastating economic losses for farmers
- Potential spread to wild bird populations

What to do if you see it

If you suspect avian influenza in your flock:

- Immediately contact the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline: 1800 675 888
- Do not move any birds or products from your property
- Follow all instructions given by authorities

Where does it come from

- The strain typically originates from:
- Wild waterfowl, which are natural reservoirs of the virus
- Migrating Bird flocks

How can it get here

The virus can spread through:

- Direct contact with infected birds
- Contaminated feed, water, equipment, or clothing
- Migratory wild birds droppings and contact

What animals will it impact first

- Domestic poultry (chickens, turkeys, ducks)
- Captive birds
- Wild waterfowl

How can I protect my farm

Implement strict biosecurity measures:

- Keep poultry away from wild birds
- Maintain good hygiene practices
- Monitor and quarantine new birds
- Limit visitor access to your flock

Who can help

- Your local veterinarian
- Animal Health Australia
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Biosecurity Tasmania)

How can I stop it spreading

- Practice good biosecurity
- Report suspected cases immediately
- Cooperate with authorities on control measures
- Avoid moving birds or poultry products during outbreaks remember, early detection and rapid response are crucial in controlling avian influenza outbreaks