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INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

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Situation Update #24

Important note on content in this update:

Details disclosed here will be updated on BOAH's website after test results are confirmed at the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

This policy will keep BOAH's website consistent with USDA's reporting to avoid impacting international trade.

*New information is highlighted in **BOLD ITALIC** type.*

State of Indiana Response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

4 May 2023

CURRENT SITUATION

On May 3, birds from a small flock in Posey County tested presumptive-positive for the H5 avian influenza virus at the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL). Samples are being forwarded to the national USDA laboratory for confirmatory testing, with results expected in the next few days. The small flock (Posey1) was reported to BOAH after significant death loss.

Because this is a small flock not engaged in commerce (selling birds or eggs), the finding does not negatively impact Indiana's highly pathogenic avian influenza-free status that was achieved on April 19.

No commercial poultry flocks are located within 10-km of Posey1. BOAH is reaching out to local hobby flock owners to offer surveillance testing.

County & Flock #: Posey1

Flock Size: 23

Type of Operation: Non-Commercial

Status: Quarantined & Depopulated

Control Area: N/A

Surveillance Zone: Active

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BACKGROUND

The first HPAI case of the 2022-2023 incident in Indiana—and the nation—was confirmed in early February 2022 in a Dubois County turkey flock. To date, Indiana has had ten commercial poultry

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flocks (ducks and turkeys) and **six** small/hobby flocks (mixed species) test positive for HPAI in **seven counties**. (One additional commercial turkey flock was depopulated as a “dangerous contact” to diagnosed flock.) All commercial sites have been cleared to restock at the owner’s discretion.

The influenza virus is still active throughout parts of the United States. HPAI has been identified on **832 premises** in 47 states since February 2022, with new cases as recently as last week. Wild birds infected with HPAI have been found from coast to coast in various species, including waterfowl (ducks, swans, geese, gulls, etc.), raptors (hawks and eagles), as well as other common species (American robin, common raven, wild turkey).

ABOUT HPAI

Food Safety: Avian influenza *does not present a food safety risk*; poultry and eggs are safe to eat. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) considers the risk to human health to be very low. Human health agencies will be monitoring workers and others in contact with birds to monitor for influenza-like illness.

Reporting Sick Poultry: Hobby poultry owners are encouraged to be aware of the signs of avian influenza and report illness and/or death to the **USDA Healthy Birds Hotline: 866-536-7593**. Callers will be routed to a state or federal veterinarian in Indiana for a case assessment. Dead birds should be double-bagged and refrigerated for possible testing. Signs include: sudden death without clinical signs; lack of energy or appetite; decreased egg production; soft-shelled or misshapen eggs; swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, hocks; nasal discharge; coughing; sneezing; lack of coordination; and diarrhea. A great resource for backyard bird health information is [online here](#).

Reporting Sick Wild Birds: Report sick or dead wild birds through DNR’s [online sick and dead wildlife reporting system](#).

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ABOUT INDIANA POULTRY PRODUCTION

Indiana is a leading producer of poultry, eggs and poultry products. Nationally, Indiana ranks first in production of ducks, second in layer chickens and table eggs, and third in turkeys, as well as a major producer of broilers.

Ongoing/Latest Updates:

Updates are available online at: <https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza/> Visit that webpage to subscribe for updates delivered via text and/or email by clicking the red “subscribe” icon at the top.

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