

AVIAN INFLUENZA – AN ONGOING CONCERN!

- AI is a contagious viral infection that affects many bird types
- Chickens, turkey, waterfowl, game birds, even pet birds are susceptible and may become sick
- Wild birds, especially waterfowl, are natural reservoirs of the virus and source of spread to other birds

HOW IS THE DISEASE TRANSMITTED IN BIRDS?

- Foot traffic
- Secretions from birds' mouths, nostrils, eyes, excrement
- Contact with infected droppings
- Movement of infected birds
- Contaminated clothing, footwear and equipment

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS!

- Sudden death
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production or softened/misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids and comb
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Stumbling and falling down
- Coughing and gasping for air
- Diarrhea



PROTECTING YOUR FLOCK



Cover chicken coops and runs to prevent contact with waterfowl and wild birds and their droppings



Keep feed and water clean and fresh



Remove birdhouses, feeders and baths used by wild birds



Wash hands before and after working with birds



Clean and disinfect equipment in contact with birds or droppings



Wear dedicated clothing and shoes



When visiting places where poultry owners go or wild birds congregate, wear footwear and clothes that you do not wear on the farm



Keep all birds in coop to prevent contact with waterfowl and wild birds and their droppings

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A. Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- B. Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Factsheet
- C. Biosecurity Self-Assessment



A



B



C

Avian Influenza is a reportable disease under the Health of Animal Act and suspected cases must be reported to CFIA 902-536-1010. For questions about Avian Influenza in wild birds contact NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables at 1-800-565-2224.