

Avian Flu

The Avian Flu outbreak continues to spread throughout North America, primarily throughout Midwestern states in the Central and Mississippi flyways and in eastern Canada. According to the US Department of Agriculture, approximately 47,000,000 birds have been affected in the USA, almost exclusively in commercial flocks. This has led to the cancellation of poultry shows, swap meets and the general movement of poultry in many of these states in the past.

This disease was first noticed in Canada in the province of British Columbia which resulted in severe restrictions on the movement and sale of poultry and poultry products. The good news is that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has finally declared British Columbia free of avian influenza. However, eastern Canada is not so lucky with cases still being detected in the province of Ontario.

The APA is concerned and has been monitoring the Avian Flu situation and participated in webinars and Avian Influenza discussions over the past few months. This is a serious situation that certainly affects the exhibition poultry industry as well as our commercial brethren. We stand ready to support and participate in any reasonable actions that will lead to the control and eradication of this disease. In the meantime, we strongly advise that all breeders and exhibitors use their common sense and follow strict Bio-Security practices for their own good and the benefit of all poultry.

AVIAN FLU ADVISORY

The APA is aware of and concerned about the recent Avian flu outbreaks in various locations throughout North America and we are monitoring the situation as closely as possible. At this time, as far as we know, there are no formal restrictions on the movement of birds or the holding of poultry shows.

Having said that, we strongly advise that all breeders and exhibitors use their common sense and follow strict Bio-Security practices for their own good and the benefit of the exhibition and commercial industries.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

Bio-Security is everyone's responsibility. Although it is very important to keep your birds in clean coops, with fresh food, water and free from lice and mites, this may not be enough to protect them from AI.

It's bad enough to think a wild bird could fly over and infect your property but if you don't think bio-security, you could personally bring Avian Influenza into your own poultry yard.

Here are some of the ways that AI can be brought on to your property:

