



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

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**Gary W. Black**  
Commissioner

March 20, 2015

**TO:** Georgia Poultry Producers Raising Birds with Outside Access

**FROM:** Robert M. Cobb, DVM  
State Veterinarian 

**SUBJECT:** Notification and Biosecurity Recommendations regarding the continuing outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Given the occurrences of HPAI in Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, Nevada and the recent confirmation of additional cases in Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas, the outbreak appears to be moving eastward. Wild birds, backyard poultry and commercial poultry have been infected. Epidemiological reports confirm that the virus is being carried by certain types of wild migratory waterfowl that are present in both the Pacific and Mississippi flyways. At this time, no positive birds have been found in the Atlantic flyway, which is along the coast of Georgia. Flocks in our state that may contact wild migratory waterfowl or their droppings are at a high risk. To attempt to mitigate that risk we are strongly recommending the following steps be taken for the protection of flocks with outside access:

1. Move all poultry with outside access into housing immediately.
2. Implement strict biosecurity on these premises. Alert all company personnel, growers, farm workers and service personnel of the increased risk of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Especially focus biosecurity methods on preventing any exposure to wild waterfowl or their droppings.
3. Monitor all flocks for increased mortality or clinical signs consistent with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and report any concerns to your Veterinarian, State Animal Health Official or Federal Animal Health Official immediately. The consistent clinical sign in all the current reported cases to this point has been a marked rapid increase in mortality over several days.
4. Please contact us with your questions or concerns.