

Fall 2024 Update

September 18, 2024

With the fall weather quickly approaching, resulting in colder temperatures and wild bird migrations, the threat of re-emergence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) is real. FBCC would like to remind producers to rigorously follow their daily biosecurity protocols, as well as consider appropriate additional biosecurity measures to help prevent disease occurrence and spread in the province.

The following is a list of biosecurity measures recommended for Ontario poultry farms:

- Each farmer, employee and every person entering all poultry barns must put on clean footwear, protective clothing and follow all biosecurity protocols on every entry into barns.
- Minimize visits to other poultry/livestock/wildlife sites and avoid any co-mingling of birds or contact with outside/wild birds.
- Avoid exchanging equipment with other poultry/livestock/wildlife sites.
- Ensure all vehicles/farm equipment that access the barn vicinity are properly washed and disinfected and that the laneway is restricted/secured.
- Ensure adequate training of farm and company personnel in biosecurity and disease prevention.
- Ensure adequate control of wild birds and rodents.
- Have a pressure washer or a hose available to wash tires and equipment, and make this available to all service vehicles.
- If possible, “heat treat” the barn/litter ahead of chick or poult placement (to 30°C for a minimum of 3 days).

HPAI Update

Currently, there are no active cases of HPAI in poultry farms in Canada, nor have there been any positive cases reported on any dairy farms. Wildlife monitoring continues, with three cases with pending testing results as of September 10, 2024.

HPAI has also been detected in one backyard flock in the United States of America in the last 30 days. Details can be found [here](#). They also continue to report positive cases on dairy farms and subsequent positive cases in other mammals, including humans.

As a reminder, with HPAI still prevalent in the environment, [heightened biosecurity protocols](#) should be in place at all poultry farms. It is extremely important that all farmers remain vigilant during the upcoming fall migration period and report any signs of illness to your veterinarian and local Board office.



AMPV Update

Currently there have been three positive cases of aMPV in Ontario since August 2 in Grey and Oxford Counties. **As a reminder, aMPV is a highly contagious disease and can spread between all poultry species.** It is commonly known as Turkey Viral Rhinotracheitis in turkeys and Swollen Head Syndrome in chickens. The clinical signs of aMPV are primarily in the respiratory tract and mortality may be severe, thus causing confusion with other diseases such as bronchitis and Avian Influenza. The mortality rate of aMPV depends on virulence of virus strain, species, age of birds, breeding conditions, immune status, and secondary infections. The disease is spread through direct contact with affected poultry, introduced by wild birds or by introduction of infected materials or equipment. The syndrome is described further in the [Ontario Animal Health Network advisory](#).

If you are providing service to poultry farmers in Ontario please reinforce your biosecurity protocols, with all deliveries or loading in the affected counties being the last on the route, where possible.

Given we are seeing between species transmission of HPAI and aMPV, biosecurity protocols should be adhered to at all times - not only when travelling between poultry operations.

Small flock owners should [contact a veterinarian](#). More resources are available from [SmallFlockOntario.ca](#).

Should you suspect any signs of health concerns in your flock, please contact your veterinarian and your board office immediately.

Any updates will be issued through [www.fbcc.ca](#).