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## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Biosecurity Advisory Nova Scotia commercial turkey flock infected with H5N1

Highly Pathogenic H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11,800-bird commercial turkey flock in Kings County, western Nova Scotia. Older birds suffered 98% mortality. CFIA quarantines, movement controls and zoning are in place and surveillance is underway. Surviving birds on the infected farm have been culled.

This incident was preceded by 2 recent H5N1 cases near Halifax, Nova Scotia in January: wild birds and a non-commercial backyard flock. Newfoundland experienced 4 cases of HPAI H5N1 in November and December, all on the Avalon peninsula near St. John's. Two of these were wild bird incidents and two were small non-commercial flocks.

Today OMAFRA released an [Avian Influenza Update Veterinary Advisory](#) which makes a strong recommendation to all poultry farmers:

*To reduce the probability of transmission of H5N1 from wild birds to domestic poultry, **strict biosecurity measures should be implemented for all types of poultry holdings**. Individuals are encouraged to report findings of dead waterfowl and shorebirds to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative.*

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is also urging Canadian poultry owners to take an active role in protecting their flocks by employing **strict biosecurity measures on their property and immediately reporting any signs of illness to their veterinarian**.

This highly pathogenic virus is being carried by wild birds in the Atlantic Flyway in eastern Canada and the US southeastern seaboard. Given that Ontario is part of this same flyway and that a commercial flock in Nova Scotia has now been infected, it would be prudent for Ontario farmers and service providers to review the [FBCC Enhanced Biosecurity recommendations](#) and the [FBCC Biosecurity cards](#).



It is now essential for commercial poultry producers to use rigorous [biosecurity practices](#) in order to prevent introduction of the virus to their flock or those of their neighbours. Farmers should take the following measures.

- Keep poultry away from areas frequented by wild birds.
- Maintains strict control over access to poultry houses and your premises
- Make sure that equipment is cleaned and disinfected before taking it into poultry houses.
- Do not keep bird feeders or create duck ponds close to poultry barns
- Maintain the highest sanitation standards.
- Change footwear when entering the Restricted Area and prevent wearing contaminated clothing and equipment in production areas
- Closely monitor flock health, including mortalities, feed and water consumption, and abnormal bird behaviour
- If AI is suspected on your farm, farmers should implement a self-quarantine, call their veterinarian and inform their provincial board office.

For more information on measures, you can take to protect your flocks from avian influenza, please visit the [Avian influenza](#) page on the CFIA website.

Small flocks growers should follow CFIA's ["Protect your Flock from AI"](#) biosecurity measures.

Service providers should ensure that [CFIA biosecurity standards](#) are being rigorously applied.

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