



AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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Member - Federation
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Avian Influenza Update – April 21, 2015

The AU previously reported activity regarding Avian Influenza (AI) outbreaks detected in Idaho, Washington and Oregon. We were hopeful when quarantines were lifted in those states.

Though we have discussed with various state officials that pigeons are typically not susceptible to AI, the concern is that it mutates and different strains develop. Therefore, in an effort to minimize and eliminate the threat, restrictions on movement may be imposed and backyard bird enthusiasts and commercial growers are impacted.

Many AU members have forwarded information (articles, web links, etc.) as to new developments in their states. We appreciate your help tremendously.

AI has now been detected in poultry farms and backyard flocks in 9 other states; Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Each state will respond somewhat differently so we will continue to monitor the Department of Agriculture website in each of the states. We encourage members to visit their state Ag sites for updates. A recap of what we know is below.

Arkansas has established a surveillance area in Boone County where AI was detected in a turkey farm.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/stakeholders/downloads/2015/sa_hpai_arkansas.pdf

Idaho continues to monitor, however, the quarantine was lifted in February.

<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/>

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Iowa has confirmed AI in a commercial turkey flock in Buena Vista County. The premises has been quarantined, millions of birds have been or will be euthanized and surveillance efforts will continue.

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/avianinfluenza.asp>

Kansas detected AI in a backyard flock with chickens and ducks in Leavenworth County. They have established a control zone where they are identifying other backyard flocks for testing. <http://agriculture.ks.gov/>

Minnesota has detected AI in numerous commercial and backyard flocks in the state. Control Zones and Surveillance Zones have been set up. For information regarding shipping in or out of control zones, go

to <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/avian-influenza> or <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/>

Missouri turkeys at commercial facilities in Jasper and Moniteau Counties also tested positive. State officials quarantined the facilities, depopulated and have since lifted quarantines. <http://agriculture.mo.gov/avian-influenza.php>

Montana reports chickens in Judith Basin County tested positive for AI. The flocks have been quarantined and will be depopulated to stop the spread.

<http://www.kaj18.com/story/28724233/avian-influenza-confirmed-in-montana-chickens>

North Dakota has reported that a commercial turkey flock in Dickey County has tested positive. The facility has been placed on quarantine and the flock will be destroyed. A six mile control zone has been established around the affected area and birds will continue to be monitored. <http://www.nd.gov/ndda/news/update-avian-influenza-confirmed-response-continues>

Oregon reports no activity at this time and previous quarantines have been lifted. <http://www.oregon.gov/oda/Pages/default.aspx>

Washington lifted the quarantine in both Clallam and Okanogan Counties. <http://agr.wa.gov/>

Wisconsin has implemented a ban on movement of poultry to and from shows and exhibits in Juneau, Jefferson, or Barron Counties as a result of detected AI.

<http://datcp.wi.gov/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

How Can You Help?

Basic bio-security measures should always be used. It is more important than ever to make sure you are cleaning your loft regularly, washing hands going in and out of the loft, monitoring or perhaps restricting others from going in and out of your loft and placing new birds in a quarantine section before integrating them with your other birds.

Below is a USDA website link that also provides basic bio-security information, as well as a link that reports updates on the AI outbreaks.

<http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov/>

<http://www.thepoultrysite.com/bird-flu/bird-flu-news.php>