

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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March 14, 2022

Avian Influenza & Outbreak Update ***Most recent news . . .***

Fifteen states have reported cases of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza since February 2, 2022. (Indiana, Delaware, Michigan, Maine, New York, Kentucky, Virginia, Iowa, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Kansas, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Connecticut.)

The virus has been confirmed in both commercial and non-commercial (backyard) flocks. A 10-kilometer control is established around each affected flock. The flocks are tested weekly, if not more frequently.

Cases have recently been detected in wild bird species, which concerns officials as the birds migrate.

State officials work with federal agencies to determine best practices and best course to prevent further spread. They have authority to implement what they deem appropriate to protect their poultry industry. We encourage members to monitor their individual state veterinarian websites for updates and/or any posted restrictions.

As always, we encourage members to practice biosecurity measures and manage a clean and healthy loft.

AU Bio-Security Recommendations

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.

AU Bio-Security Recommendations are found at:

<http://www.pigeon.org/loftcertificationpolicy.htm>

Other Ways You Can Help

The AU also developed the Loft Certification Program many years ago. We have encouraged members to participate in this self-regulating program to illustrate optimum care is provided the birds. It is achieved through a point system and is based on practicing basic bio-security. The [AU Loft Certification Program](#) doesn't cost anything. For more information, please feel free to call the national office (800-755-2778).

For updates from the State Veterinarians, go to:

https://www.usaha.org/upload/Federal%20and%20State%20Health/STATE_ANIMAL_HEALTH_OFFICIALS_17.pdf