

# Bio Security Practices Are VITAL



Dear VPF Members and Friends,

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announced the [confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza \(HPAI\)](#) in a flock of commercial broiler chickens in Fulton County, Kentucky as well as a **backyard flock of mixed species birds in Fauquier County, Virginia**. This follows confirmation on February 9 of HPAI in a commercial turkey flock in Dubois County, Indiana and detections in hunter-harvested wild fowl in Virginia and other East Coast states in recent weeks.

APHIS is working closely with state animal health officials in Kentucky and Virginia on joint incident responses. State officials quarantined the affected premises, and birds on the properties will be depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Depopulation is complete in Virginia.

Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds. APHIS has materials about biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and a toolkit available at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/df-resources/df-resources>

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to the office of the Virginia State Veterinarian at 804-692-0604 or [vastatevet@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:vastatevet@vdacs.virginia.gov) or through APHIS' toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593. APHIS urges producers to consider bringing birds indoors when possible to further prevent exposures.

Please contact me at [hobey@vapoultry.com](mailto:hobey@vapoultry.com) or 540-478-8199 if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance. Thank you for being extra vigilant about biosecurity to protect Virginia's poultry community from HPAI.

Sincerely,  
Hobey Bauhan, President  
Virginia Poultry Federation  
[www.vapoultry.com](http://www.vapoultry.com)



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