



NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa Poultry Association Confirms Latest Avian Influenza Impact on Iowa Egg Industry

Total of five egg farms in Iowa now affected

(URBANDALE, Iowa)— The Iowa Poultry Association and Iowa Egg Council have been informed of a total of five cases of avian influenza on commercial farms, all in northwest Iowa. With the latest notifications, Executive Director Randy Olson again reassures consumers that while this is a serious situation for the poultry industry, consumers do not face health concerns with consumption of chicken or eggs.

On behalf of his organizations, Olson has reached out to state and federal regulatory agencies, urging them to swiftly and rigorously coordinate efforts to address and curtail the disease.

“We recognize this issue is overwhelming in many respects for all those involved, and government leaders have been diligent in their response,” says Olson. “The H5N2 virus is aggressive, able to decimate a flock within 48 hours. While it’s believed that migratory bird droppings have caused an outbreak throughout the Midwest, and while each of these Iowa-based farms maintained strict biosecurity measures, it’s vital for government leaders to further communicate the methods by which the avian influenza is spreading.”

Just as with the earlier confirmed cases, safety and security measures are in full force to contain the spread of the disease. The quarantined egg-related farms are:

- Osceola County laying hen farm with 3.8 million birds
- Osceola County Pullet farm with 250,000 birds
- O’Brien County laying hen farm with 240,000 birds
- O’Brien County laying hen farm with 98,000 birds
- Sioux County laying hen farm with two locations totaling 5.5 million birds

“Our commitment to safety is essential for our commercial customers and for consumers who count on us to produce safe, high quality foods at all times,” Olson says.

This includes farmers endorsing and following newer regulations, such as the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA’s) Egg Safety Rule, implemented in 2010, to protect consumers against foodborne illnesses and ensure safety of the nation’s egg supply.

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Turkey and chicken producers as well as egg farmers already have comprehensive measures in place to limit the spread of avian influenza. Rigorous biosecurity guidelines include:

- Restricting on-farm access to essential employees only;
- Following on-farm disinfecting procedures such as the use of foot baths;
- Limiting movement between farm operations;
- Requiring protective gear be used at all times for anyone who enters egg farms; and
- Working closely with animal health experts and veterinarians to monitor flocks.

“Our message to all poultry owners, even those who own a single bird in the backyard, is to pay attention to biosecurity,” Olson says. “It’s up to everyone to be vigilant in their observation of their flock, looking for signs and working with a local vet.”

Avian influenza is an infectious disease of birds caused by type A strains of the influenza virus. The strains identified to date are not a threat to human health. The disease is not carried in foods (eggs, chicken or turkey).

Iowa is the leading egg producer in the U.S. providing about one in five eggs sold nationwide.

About the Iowa Egg Council

The [Iowa Egg Council](#) is a producer-supported organization established in 1973. Its mission is to increase consumption of eggs through promotion, education and research.

About the Iowa Poultry Association

The [Iowa Poultry Association](#) provides for industry response to consumer, regulatory, environmental and political issues, joining forces with members to accomplish what individual firms can't do alone. IPA helps create a strong climate in Iowa for egg and poultry farmers through efforts to educate and inform.

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