

WHAT EGG CUSTOMERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

America's egg farmers have an unwavering commitment to producing safe, wholesome, quality eggs and egg products for their retail, foodservice and manufacturing customers. At the forefront of that work is the protection and safety of flocks and prevention of disease.

Despite countless precautionary measures to protect egg-laying hens from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), the disease has been detected on egg farms in several states, as well as on commercial broiler and turkey farms. Bird flu, as it is more commonly known, is spread by migrating waterfowl.

It is important to know eggs are safe, and USDA agrees bird flu is not a public health concern. CDC also confirms that avian influenza cannot be transmitted through safely handled and properly cooked eggs or poultry.

Background

America's poultry farmers have been on heightened alert since bird flu started spreading across Europe and Asia in 2021. Biosecurity and disease prevention have always been priorities, and became even more important following 2015, when a bird flu outbreak in the US resulted in the loss of 43 million egg-laying hens, along with millions of broiler chickens and turkeys. America's egg farmers learned from 2015 and greatly expanded biosecurity on farms.

Farms also now conduct annual, independent third-party biosecurity audits in collaboration with USDA and state agencies. These practices remain in place today and are heightened in response to these detections of avian influenza.

The Egg Industry is Prepared

AEB and its egg industry partners have been planning for the possibility of a positive detection on an egg farm, and the industry is more prepared than ever before. Farmers and industry leaders stand ready to protect the reputation of egg production, to maximize stability within the egg supply, and to maintain strong consumer confidence in eggs and egg products.

HPAI is devastating to egg farmers and preventing the disease from spreading to other farms is critically important. Through collaborative efforts with state and federal government authorities, the ability of the egg industry to respond immediately and effectively to stop transmission of HPAI has greatly improved when compared to 2015.

Recovery and Return to Full Production

We are working swiftly with our government partners to bring any affected egg farms back into full production in the shortest possible time. Minimizing disruption in the egg supply while maximizing service to egg customers during this time is the priority, and AEB is supporting its members throughout the process of recovery.

AEB's mission is, and will always be, to support America's egg farmers in providing safe and nutritious eggs for their customers and consumers and continuing to grow demand for eggs and egg products.

About the U.S. Egg Supply

Eggs remain one of the most affordable and best sources of high-quality protein. Like many industries, egg production is experiencing intermittent supply chain challenges related to increases in costs and availability for feed and grain, labor and transportation. Further, the rapid spread of HPAI may disrupt the availability of eggs at times, which could lead to temporary changes in commodity pricing. Egg farmers across the US are committed to doing all that is possible to safeguard the food supply and ensure that eggs still are readily available.

Thank you for trusting America's egg farmers to produce your eggs.

