

What measures can you take to protect yourself and your animals?

1. Prevent contact between poultry and wild birds
2. Ensure houses, feed stores and bedding stores are rodent and bird-proof
3. Feed and water outdoor birds indoors or under cover
4. Use commercial feed (it is illegal to feed farmed animal species with food waste) and clean up any food spills
5. Prevent poultry access to ponds, lakes or rivers
6. Keep ducks and geese separate from other species of poultry
7. Staff and visitors should have no contact with wild birds
8. Change clothing and footwear when looking after your birds
9. Wash and disinfect your hands before and after looking after your birds
10. Prevent rodents and pets from having contact with poultry
11. Use foot dips at entrances to poultry houses
12. Clean and disinfect equipment routinely
13. Check your birds regularly for signs of illness
14. Only buy birds from a known reputable source - isolate any newly introduced poultry

What to do if you suspect disease?

Avian influenza is a notifiable disease. If you suspect any birds may be affected you must notify the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine immediately by contacting your local District Veterinary Office or the Avian Influenza Helpline on 076 106 4403 during office hours, or by calling 1850 200 456 after hours.

Do not move any poultry, carcasses or anything else (e.g. feed or waste) until a Department of Agriculture veterinary inspector has carried out an examination.

If you have any concerns over the health of your flock contact your veterinary practitioner.

What happens if avian influenza is confirmed in Ireland?

Details can be found in the booklet "*Information on Avian Influenza Control Measures*" on the Department's website.

Further information

In the event of an outbreak, further information will be provided on the Department of Agriculture's website at:

www.agriculture.gov.ie

Avian Influenza Information January 2017

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**AVIAN
INFLUENZA**
Information Leaflet
For Bird Owners

What is avian influenza?

Avian influenza is a highly contagious viral disease affecting food producing birds, pet birds and wild birds. The virus has also been found in pigs, cats and dogs. It is caused by a Type A influenza virus. There are two types of avian influenza virus. These are called low pathogenic (LPAI) and highly pathogenic (HPAI), depending on the severity of the disease that they cause in birds.

What is the risk to the public?

Avian influenza viruses can occasionally affect humans - usually after close contact with infected poultry.

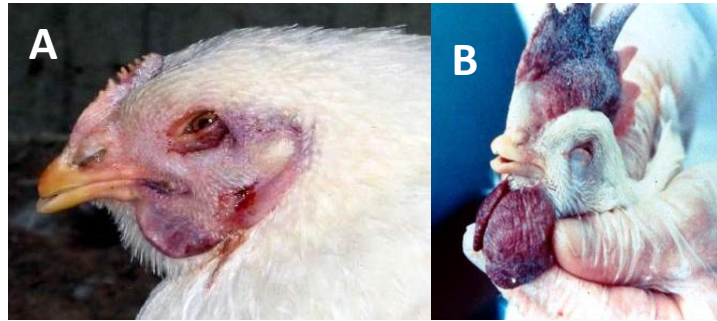
Where is the disease found?

Avian influenza occurs worldwide and different strains are more prevalent in certain areas. Outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 have been present in Europe since October 2016.

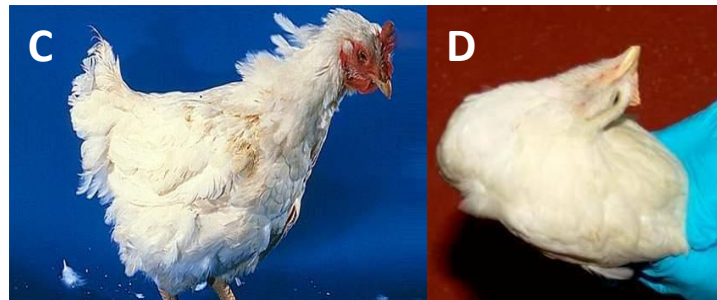
How is the disease transmitted and spread?

Wild birds are considered the main source of introduction of disease into poultry, shedding virus in respiratory secretions and faeces. Subsequent contamination of water, feed and equipment allows entry of the virus into poultry flocks. Once the disease is in poultry, it may be spread between flocks via the movement of people, vehicles and equipment.

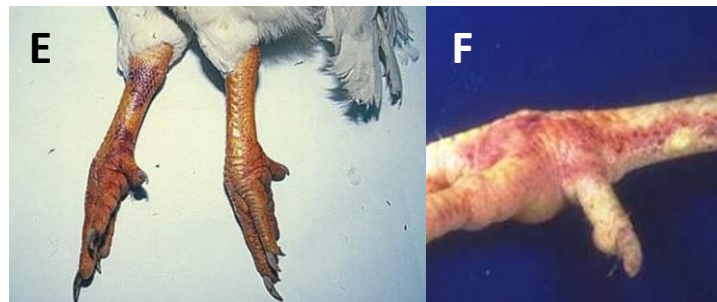
How to recognise avian influenza



A & B: Swollen head, and discharges; blue discoloration of wattle and comb



C: Ruffled feathers. D: Twisting of head and neck



E & F: Blue discoloration of shanks

Clinical signs of avian influenza

Symptoms may include any of the following:

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

- Depression
- Loss of appetite and excessive thirst
- Cessation of egg laying
- Respiratory signs (coughing, sneezing)
- Ruffled feathers
- Nervous signs (drooping wings, dragging legs, twisting of the head and neck, circling, complete paralysis)
- Swelling and blue discoloration of combs and wattles
- Blue discoloration of shanks
- Diarrhoea
- Sudden death
- Mortality rates up to 100%

Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI)

- Mild respiratory disease
- Depression
- Drop in egg production