



## Chicken Avian Flu

**Two outbreaks of avian flu have been detected in Yakima County but almost all other Washington State and U.S. chickens remain fully healthy.**

The bird flu has made its way to Yakima County, and state officials encourage flock owners to take steps to protect uninfected birds.

A backyard flock in Yakima County tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza Tuesday and a second case was confirmed in the county Friday afternoon, according to news releases from the Washington state Department of Agriculture.

The virus had been detected in 10 counties and 19 flocks statewide.

All infected flocks have had contact with wild waterfowl, which are known to transmit the virus without necessarily being infected, the release said.

Flock owners near confirmed outbreaks may be contacted by Agriculture officials to monitor the health of their flocks and should otherwise keep domestic flocks isolated from wild waterfowl.

"The virus continues to be present in all corners of our state," State Veterinarian Dr. Amber Itle said in the release. "It's so important we remain vigilant."

She asked bird owners to withdraw from exhibitions or fairs until at least the end of June and requested that live bird markets discontinue sales temporarily.

If a flock experiences sudden death or illness of multiple birds, owners can call the WSDA hotline at 1-800-606-3056. Sick or dead wild birds should be reported using the Washington state Department of Fish and Wildlife's online reporting tool.

Practicing good biosecurity is the way to protect your flock. That means taking steps to prevent your flock from coming in contact with wild birds - especially waterfowl - and their droppings. How you accomplish this depends on the setup of your farm. Some basic tips include keeping your birds confined in an area with a roof that does not allow water through (netting does not work.) The best resource for biosecurity in backyard flocks comes from USDA's [Defend the Flock](#) program.

Avian influenza or bird flu refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses. These viruses naturally spread among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.

**Bird flu viruses do not normally infect humans but sporadic human infections with bird flu viruses have occurred and the rare infections have caused mild to severe illness in infected humans.**

Avian influenza A viruses are very contagious among birds, and some of these viruses can sicken and even kill certain domesticated bird species, including chickens, ducks and turkeys.

When avian influenza A(H5) or A(H7) virus outbreaks occur in poultry, depopulation (or culling, also called "stamping out") of infected flocks is usually carried out. In addition, surveillance of flocks that are nearby or linked to the infected flock(s) and quarantine of exposed flocks are the preferred control and eradication methods.

Past Avian flu outbreaks in chickens have caused large reductions in demand for U.S. poultry meat: a 23% drop in the 2004 outbreak, a 5% drop in the 2014-2015 outbreak. Such reductions resulted in very serious price increases and as well as disruptions to the industry including worker layoffs.



Due to supply chain lag, the effect of the flu has not been fully reflected in prices yet but experts expect it is coming.

The effect on farmers will be even more pronounced, especially if areas are hit hard by the flu. The effect of flock loss will ripple out to other industries, from feed to farm tourism.

The threat of an ongoing avian flu outbreak is at the top of the mind for all poultry suppliers. For now, farmers and poultry suppliers are tightening biosecurity, keeping vigilant observations of their flocks, and preparing for every eventuality.

In 2016, the chicken industry provided 1,195,745 jobs, \$68 billion in wages, \$313.12 billion in economic activity and \$24.14 billion in government revenue. The turkey industry provided 374,600 jobs, \$21.3 billion in wages, \$97.46 billion in economic activity and \$7.5 billion in government revenue.

The major poultry industry states are Virginia, Arkansas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas.

Chicken is now the number-one meat in the nation, with the average person consuming an estimated two pounds per person per week, roughly one hundred pounds (thirty chickens) per year. In 2015, the average household ate chicken three to four times per week. In 2016, America's poultry industry produced over nine billion chickens.

Consumers purchase chicken over other proteins because it is versatile, convenient and cheaper. Furthermore, they anticipate increasing their overall chicken consumption in the next 12 months. Twenty-nine percent of consumers anticipate eating more chicken from the supermarket and 19 percent anticipate eating more from a food service establishment. Americans will eat a record 93 pounds of chicken per person in 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Chicken meat contains more protein than beef. Chicken meat is 27.3% protein, Beef is 25.93% protein.

Cost of protein in chicken is cheaper than beef: the cost per 4 oz. serving of chicken is \$0.82 compared to \$1.17 for beef. For comparison, the cost in beans is \$0.07 to \$0.19, in eggs is \$0.16, in pork is \$1.00, in plant-based meat is \$1.42.

*Info from many sources including excerpts from the Yakima Herald-Republic, by KATE SMITH, Jun 10, 2022*

[Info: shpr.fyi/chickenflu](http://shpr.fyi/chickenflu)

## Vitamin D or zinc deficiency seriously worsen COVID

Patients with a vitamin D deficiency were 14 times more likely to have a severe or critical case of COVID-19. What's more, the mortality rate for those with insufficient vitamin D levels was 25.6%, compared with 2.3% among those with adequate levels.

Patients with zinc deficiency compared to those without zinc deficiency were found to have higher rates of acute respiratory distress syndrome, 18.5% compared to 0%, and increased mortality 18.5% vs 0%.

Inexpensive vitamin D and zinc supplement pills are available over the counter at almost every supermarket or drugstore.

[Info: shpr.fyi/coviddzinc](http://shpr.fyi/coviddzinc)

**Read this week's Bible Readings on page 6** which includes the Apostle Paul assuring us,

***"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*** Galatians 3:28 NIV

*Dave Bunting, June 13, 2022*

*Credits in links below items.*

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