



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 (360) 902-1800

July, 2, 2024

Dear Washington Fairs and Poultry Exhibitions,

To date, the [United States Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) confirmed the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in **1159** premises in **48** states. Since May 5, 2022, Washington has had cases in **45** backyard premises and **one** commercial egg layer in **17** counties.

[Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) continues to report wild bird HPAI detections involving multiple species since the beginning of the outbreak.

While the risk of avian influenza is always present from interactions with wild waterfowl in the Pacific flyway, the most common risk factors are proximity to water sources or ponds where wild waterfowl congregate, being located within a HPAI control area or surveillance zone, breaches in biosecurity (visitors, contractors, contaminated equipment, etc.), and commingling of workers at commercial facilities.

The last HPAI H5N1 detection in Washington State was December 19, 2023, in King County. Cases reported across the United States are similar to the same time last year, but have decreased since 2022. WSDA recommends using a risk based approach when deciding to commingle birds during poultry shows, exhibitions, or swap meets. Commingling birds from many farms is extremely high-risk for disease transmission; including parasites and other diseases not related to HPAI.

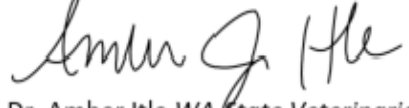
[Enhanced biosecurity](#) is critical to [defending birds](#) from the accidental introduction of HPAI into your exhibitions. If the decision is made to proceed with poultry exhibitions, fairs should keep the following biosecurity tips in mind:

- Do not allow sick or depressed birds into the fair
- House waterfowl and gallinaceous birds in separate areas or barns if possible
- Consider staggering show times or days for poultry and waterfowl
- Clean and disinfect frequently during and between shows
- Avoid reusing cages between classes or species, and don't place birds in dirty cages
- Do not share equipment
- Restrict the public from touching exhibition birds and encourage hand washing
- Isolate show birds from the rest of the flock for 30 days after the fair
- If HPAI is suspected, immediately remove the bird(s) and call the State Veterinarian's office at 1-800-606-3056

Visit WSDA's website for additional HPAI resources and tables including the last HPAI detection [here](#): [Bird Flu 2022-2024](#) and Fair Biosecurity and species specific guidance [here](#): [Exhibiting Animals in Washington State](#).

If you have questions, please contact me at aitle@agr.wa.gov or (360) 961-4129. You may also contact Dr. Dana Dobbs, Avian Health Lead, at ddobbs@agr.wa.gov or (509) 607-4974.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Itle".

Dr. Amber Itle WA State Veterinarian

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana R Dobbs".

Dana R Dobbs, DVM

WSDA Avian Health Lead