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## Poultry Disease: Avian Flu (Avian Influenza)

**Location:** State of Arizona (see [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov) for counties of confirmed positive infections)

**Type:** Virus

**Affected Livestock:** Domestic Poultry (including Geese, Quail, Chickens, Ducks, Pheasants and Turkeys)



**Transmission:** Avian Influenza is a naturally occurring virus in wild (non-domestic) birds that can be transmitted to domesticated poultry. The virus can be found in the feces, nasal secretions or saliva of infected birds. There are two well known versions of the virus - low pathogenic and high pathogenic. High pathogenic is very fatal to birds. The transmission route is from a wild or domestic bird that may or may not have symptoms, to other birds nearby. People can spread the virus from bird to bird or flock by poor bio-security habits. Humans can rarely catch Avian Influenza, but it is possible so care should be taken when working around birds with a suspected or known infection.

**Signs of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (can vary by poultry type):** Chickens can have respiratory symptoms including coughing, sneezing and gasping for breath, swollen head and neck, purple wattles, a pronounced lack of energy, loss of coordination and severe diarrhea. The virus is usually fatal and can kill in under 48 hours. Ducks may not show any symptoms before death occurs. Turkeys and other poultry may show signs of tremors, twisting neck and paralysis.

**Diagnosis:** Diagnosis is confirmed by a veterinarian and lab cultures.

**Treatment:** Treatment: Contact your veterinarian or State or Federal veterinary officials immediately if any compatible symptoms are noticed. There are no treatments for poultry with highly pathogenic avian influenza. To reduce suffering and keep virus from spreading, birds should be humanely euthanized in coordination with your veterinarian and state or federal veterinary officials. Prevention is the best strategy.

**Prognosis:** Poor prognosis for infected birds.

**Prevention:** Good biosecurity practices are essential to reduce impacts to your flocks. Keep flocks away from wild birds and use netting to keep wild birds from sharing food and water sources of domestic birds. Do not allow visitors to the flock pens without appropriate biosecurity measures in place. Disinfect shared feeders and waterers. Wash and disinfect clothes worn near infected birds. If dead wild birds have been found in with your domestic poultry which are now sick, please contact the Arizona Game and Fish Commission or the Arizona Department of Agriculture for guidance. Practice good hygiene when working with infected or non-infected birds including frequent washing with virus killing soaps, sanitizing shoes, and wearing appropriate masks.

**NOTE:** *This virus has not been identified in all Arizona counties at this time. For more information, use the QR code to access the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) page on Avian Health*



BOLO Author: '  
Anita Thompson  
Assistant Area Agent - Agriculture  
Navajo, Apache, N. Greenlee Counties

BOLO Bulletin Contact:  
County Extension Agent  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/locations>

