



Los Angeles County

Department Of

Agricultural Commissioner / Weights & Measures

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Types of HPAI (Bird flu)

Avian Influenza (AI), often called “Bird Flu,” is caused by influenza type A viruses.

- Disease varies in severity depending on the strain & species affected
- AI viruses are classified by a combination of two groups of proteins:
 - hemagglutinin or H proteins (H1-H16) and
 - neuraminidase or N proteins (N1-N9)
- Many combinations of “H” and “N” proteins are possible. Each combination is considered a different subtype, and related viruses within a subtype may be referred to as a lineage.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) strains (e.g., H5N1) are deadly to domestic poultry

- Can impact an entire array of bird species
- Can wipe out entire flocks within a matter of days
- Has the potential to infect livestock
- Avian Influenza viruses do not usually infect humans, although rare cases have been reported

Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI) strains typically cause few or no signs of illness.

They occur naturally in wild birds around the world.



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Introduction to U.S, California, & L.A. County

TIMELINE

- December 2021: HPAI detected in Canada
- January 2022: HPAI detected in wild birds in the US (South Carolina)
- February 2022: HPAI confirmed in commercial flocks (Indiana, Kentucky) and backyard flocks (Virginia)
- February 2022: CA State Veterinarian imposed quarantine/entry requirements
- April 2022: First human case (*poultry workers*) of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) (Colorado)
- **July 2022: AI detected in wild birds in California**
- Aug. & Sept. 2022: HPAI confirmed in backyard and commercial flocks in multiple CA Counties
- **October 2022: HPAI detected in wild birds in Los Angeles County**
- August 2024: HPAI detected in dairy cows (Central Valley, CA)
- **December 2024: HPAI detected in domestic cats in Los Angeles County**
- December 2024: CA Governor's State Emergency Proclamation
- January 2025: First Human Death (*backyard flock*) due to H5N1 (*patient >65 w/underlying medical conditions*)
- January 2025: CA State Veterinarian banned CA poultry and dairy cattle exhibitions at fairs and shows



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Current Status (Feb. 2022 – Present)

UNITED STATES – Confirmed Detections

- Birds: 104.9 million (Chickens, turkeys & ducks)
- Flocks: 1,419 in 50 states (642 commercial and 777 backyard)
- Cattle: 928 in 16 states (all on dairy milking cow premises)
- Human cases: 67 (1 death in Louisiana)

CALIFORNIA – Confirmed Detections*

- Birds: 22.8 million (Chickens, turkeys, ducks, pheasants/chuckers)
- Flocks: 135 (99 commercial and 36 backyard)
- Cattle: 711 (all on dairy milking cow premises)
- Human cases: 38 (1 in Los Angeles County)

**Avian Influenza is widespread in California and may be present in counties not listed.*

This can be due to no lab submissions from those counties. Depopulation data unavailable.



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Current Wave 2024-25 Winter Outbreak

Total poultry lost in current wave:

- 10.4 million layers/pullets (70% of layers; 10% pullets)
- 4.6 million broilers (17%)
- 589,000 turkeys • 422,000 ducks • 45,000 Pheasants/Chuckers

Thus, 70% of layers in California have had to be depopulated.

It takes ~16-20 weeks (4-5 months) for chick to mature to lay eggs.

CA imports ~60% of all eggs from out-of-state; All states HPAI-impacted



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Mitigation Measures

ALL POULTRY PREMISES

- Housing poultry indoors
- Organic poultry producers are temporarily exempt from requirements to provide outdoor access
- Additional biosecurity measures
- Close observation and timely reporting
- Ban from participating in exhibitions

PREMISES LOCATED INSIDE OF A CONTROL AREA OR SURVEILLANCE ZONE

- Surveillance testing
- Enhanced biosecurity measures
- Movement control

PREMISES WITH CONFIRMED HPAI

- Depopulation of affected and exposed poultry (*No treatment identified for HPAI*)
- Proper disposal of carcasses
- After depopulation: Comprehensive approval process for flock restocking



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Biosecurity

Enhanced biosecurity is critical in the face of ongoing disease outbreaks & wild bird carrier exposure.

- Commercial & Backyard Producers are encouraged to establish and follow biosecurity protocols
- Government (incl. County) & private inspectors advised to implement strict biosecurity measures

Basic Biosecurity Components:

- **Isolation:** Confinement of animals within a controlled environment.
 - *Fence keeps birds in and other animals out*
 - *Also applies to the practice of separating birds by age group*
- **Traffic Control:** Includes both traffic onto farms and traffic patterns within the farms
- **Sanitation:** Addresses disinfection of materials, people, and equipment entering the farm and cleanliness of personnel on the farm.



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Egg Prices

Egg prices nationwide & in California surged in late 2024.

Contributing factors almost certainly include the following:

1. Avian Flu outbreak:

- HPAI continues to impact commercial table egg layer flocks into new year
- Increased holiday demand followed by restocking needs

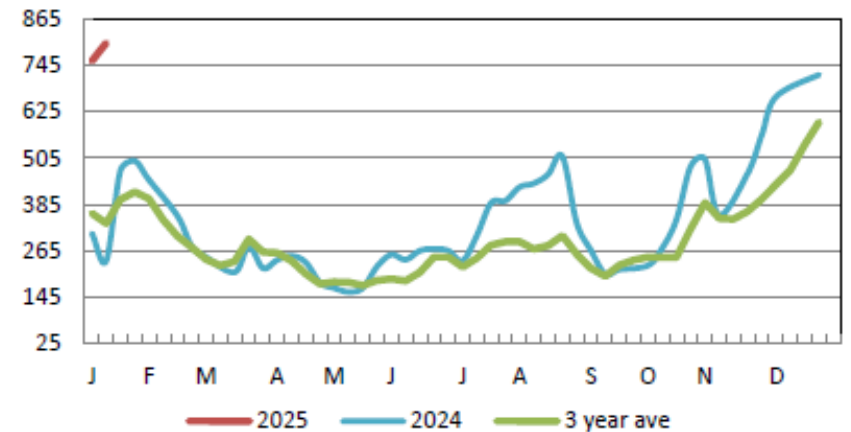
2. Increased seasonal demand; Restocking needed

3. Inflation

4. CA: Implementation of Prop 12 – Animal Care Program

(CA-based producers and producers selling in CA are required to meet revised animal confinement standards as of January 2022)

CA Average Price in Cents per Dozen Eggs
(Graded Loose; Size Large)



USDA

1. & 2. USDA

3. & 4. News Articles



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Resources

- CDFA: [CDFA - Animal Health - Avian Influenza](#) and State Veterinarian, Dr. Annette Jones
- USDA: [Avian Influenza | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#); [HPAI in Livestock | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)
- CDC: [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A\(H5N1\) Virus: Interim Recommendations for Prevention, Monitoring, and Public Health Investigations | Bird Flu | CDC](#)
- CDPH: [Bird Flu](#)
- Los Angeles County DPH: [H5N1 Avian Influenza \(Bird Flu\) | LA County DPH](#)
- FDA: [Investigation of Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\) Virus in Dairy Cattle | FDA](#)
- US EPA: [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza | US EPA](#)



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