



Avian Influenza Media Briefing

January 7, 2015





AI Basics

- Low pathogenic:
 - MD in 2014
 - Maryland and Delaware in 2004
- High pathogenic:
 - What we are facing now



Avian Influenza Basics

- **HPAI:** High Path Avian Influenza
 - Kills poultry quickly
 - Spreads quickly
 - Mortality rates 90-100%
 - No evidence that this strain causes sickness in people or impacts food safety



Preparedness

- MDA preparing since March 2015
- Education and outreach to commercial and non-commercial farmers and the general public.
- Coordination with MEMA
- Table top exercises
- Draft Declaration of Emergency
- MDA two internationally accredited animal health diagnostic labs ready to operate at full capacity



How Will Detect HPAI?

- No advance warning
- Ongoing surveillance testing
- Reports of sick birds
- Every flock is tested prior to slaughter.



What Happens when HPAI is Confirmed?

- MDA test: presumptive positive
- National test: official confirmation
- USDA will make the first announcement.
- All subsequent announcements will come from MDA.
- No other source can be called an “official” source.



How Will We Respond?

When HPAI is confirmed, the state works with USDA to execute an existing response plan:

- **Quarantine:** Restrict movement of poultry and poultry-moving equipment into and out of the control area;
- **Eradicate:** Depopulate the affected flock(s) within 24 hrs;
- **Monitor region:** Test wild and domestic birds in a broad area around the quarantine area;
- **Disinfect:** Kill the virus in the affected flock locations; and
- **Test:** Confirm that the poultry farm is AI virus-free. USDA also is working with its partners to actively look and test for the disease in commercial poultry operations, live bird markets and in migratory wild bird populations.
- **Repopulate:** New flock permitted on affected farm



Identification of Affected Farms

- The name, location or other identifying information of an affected farm or farmer will not be released.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture treats this as confidential information under the federal Privacy Act, and so does the Maryland Department of Agriculture.



Where Can You Get Information?

- **Background Information**

www.mda.maryland.gov/avianflu

- **Maryland Bird Flu Blog**

news.maryland.gov/mda/bird-flu-blog

- **Twitter @MdBirdFlu and @MdAgDept**

- **Maryland Bird Flu Online Press Kit**

- <http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/Bird-Flu-Press-Kit.aspx>



www.mda.maryland.gov/avianflu

Our Goals

- Provide you with accurate, timely and consistent information.
- Minimize public panic and fear.
- Address rumors, inaccuracies and misperceptions as quickly as possible.

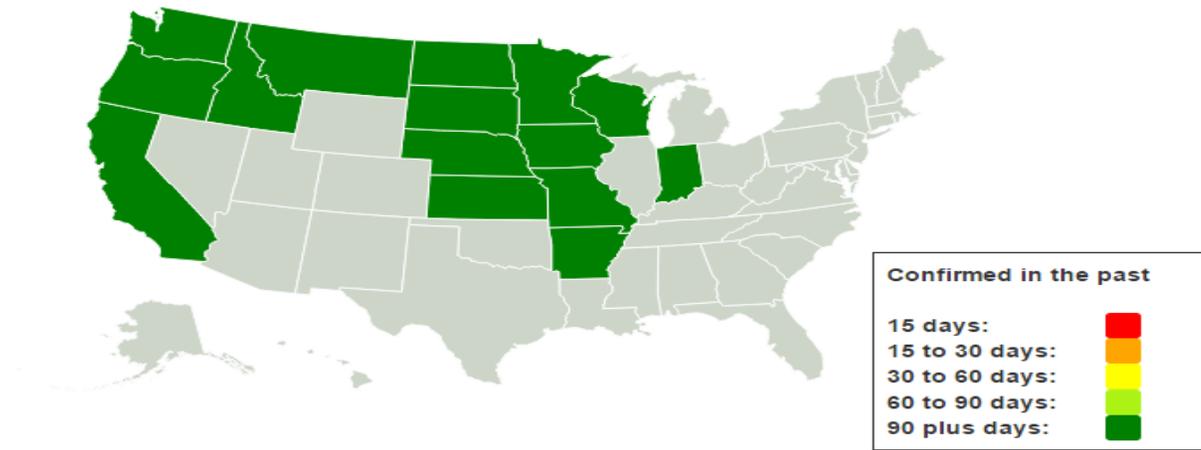




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Avian Influenza in U.S.

Update on Avian Influenza Findings
Poultry Findings Confirmed by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories



223

Detections Reported

48,091,293

Birds Affected

12/19/14

First Detection Reported

6/17/15

Last Detection Reported



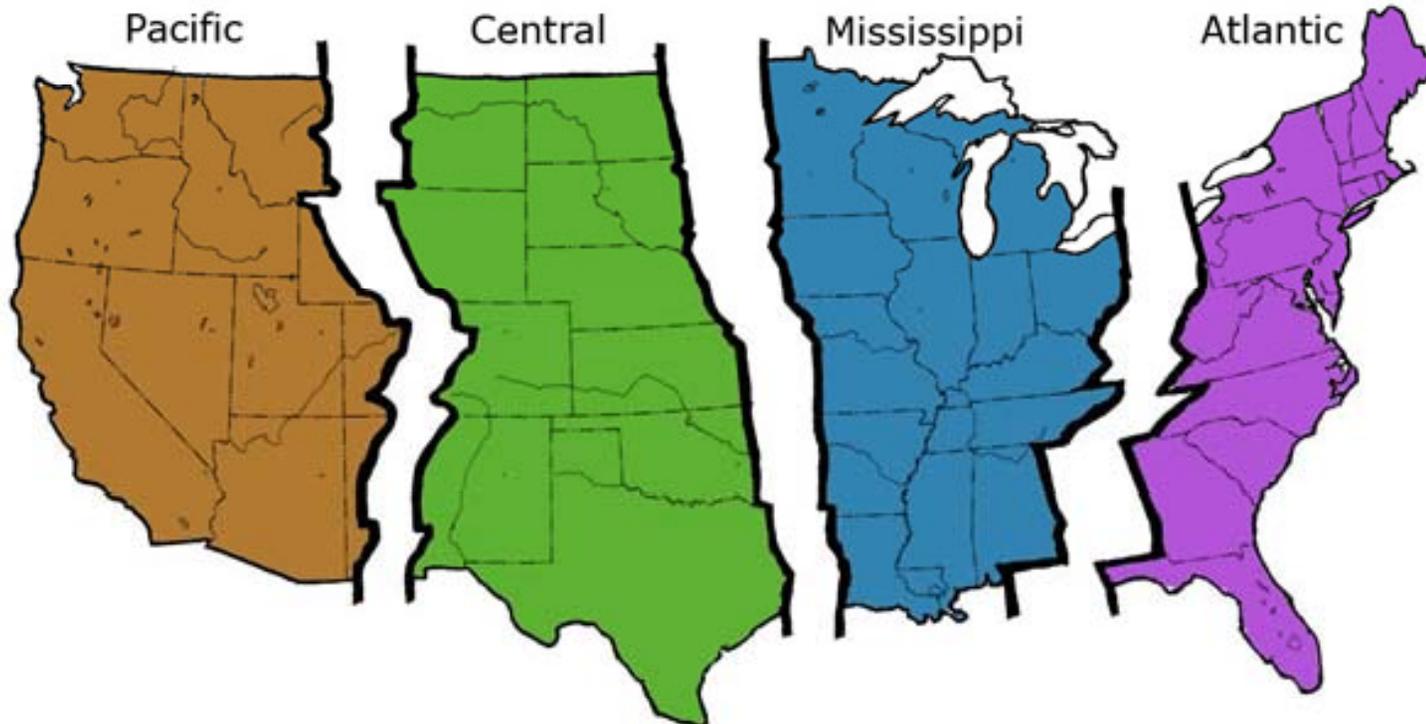
Avian Influenza Basics

Waterfowl

- Carry and spread disease, but show no symptoms
- Excrete virus in saliva and feces
- Domestic birds mingling with waterfowl at high risk



AI Basics: Waterfowl Flyways



U.S. Migratory Bird Flyways

Source: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



AI Basics: Transmission

- Direct exposure to infected birds, feces, secretions
- Carried on clothing, equipment, vehicles
- ***Only prevention is enhanced biosecurity***



Poultry Industry in Maryland

- Poultry is Maryland's largest ag sector - 41% (\$982 million) of all cash farm income is from meat chickens.
- Maryland ranked 8th in the nation for meat chickens in 2013 producing 1.6 billion pounds from 305 million birds.
- Maryland counties are among the leaders in meat chicken production in the U.S.:

Somerset #25

Worcester #26

Wicomico #36

Caroline #40

Dorchester #63

- Delmarva poultry industry accounts for 280,800 jobs and \$5.6 billion economic impact.





Poultry Industry in Maryland

- 142 farms with turkeys
- 783 farms with broilers
- 1,229 farms with laying hens
- Total farms in Maryland with poultry = 2,017
- Farms with poultry as primary commodity = 1,001

(Source: 2007 Census of Agriculture)



Poultry Industry in Maryland

- On Maryland's Eastern Shore, the five chicken companies operate 6 hatcheries, 4 feed mills, 3 processing plants, plus grain buying operations and administrative offices employing thousands of people.
- Approximately 800 family farms grow chickens on the Eastern Shore. They own the land, chicken houses, and equipment and provide day-to-day oversight.



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QUESTIONS?

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