



June 2, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Subject: High Pathogenic Avian Influenza and exhibitions

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) continues to pose a threat to domestic poultry in New Brunswick. As a result, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Province of New Brunswick recommends that strict biosecurity be implemented to prevent the spread of HPAI in the province. This includes not allowing the in-person co-mingling of birds from different premises such as those seen at events like shows, sales and exhibitions for the 2022 season.

HPAI is transmissible through direct (bird to bird) contact as well as indirect contact with contaminated feed, water and equipment. Some birds, especially waterfowl may be asymptomatic carriers (not show any signs of illness or disease). These factors make the virus very difficult to control when birds are co-mingled.

The risk periods for transmission are highest during migration periods which occur in the spring from March to June and in the fall from mid-August to November. Outside of these periods, resident wild birds may pose a risk which means we will continue to see cases of HPAI across Canada and New Brunswick. While the department will continue to monitor and re-evaluate the status of the virus, it is not expected that we will see a break in virus activity sufficient to allow safe in-person co-mingling of birds for the 2022 season.

As a special note, the New Brunswick Poultry Health Protection Act and its Regulations require show birds to be vaccinated for Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) and tagged. This program is usually done by the Province. However, because of the threat of HPAI in the province, this program will not occur this year.

The consequence of HPAI are devastating for both small flock and commercial poultry owners. Your support of these measures to prevent the introduction into flocks and the spread of HPAI in the province is appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to 506-432-2001.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Nicole Wanamaker".

Dr. Nicole Wanamaker
New Brunswick Chief Veterinary Officer

c. Neil Jacobson, Director, Animal Health Services

