



JB Pritzker, Governor  
Jerry Costello II, Director

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**Division of Food Safety and Animal Protection**

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February 17, 2022

To: All Illinois Poultry Producers

Highly pathogenic avian influenza continues to pose a threat to the poultry industry globally. Outbreaks have been found in wild and domestic poultry internationally and more recently within the United States. Our neighbors in Indiana and Kentucky have recently experienced outbreak in commercial flocks and Virginia experienced an outbreak in a backyard flock. In addition, virus has been detected in wild birds throughout the United States.

**As the state veterinarian and the official state agency of the NPIP, I strongly encourage all producers to move all birds indoors to prevent contact with wild birds or their droppings. This will help you do your part to protect the health of your birds and the industry. Additionally, I encourage you to review your biosecurity plan and implement the highest level of security possible. You need to ensure that feed and water cannot be contaminated by wild birds.**

**Please report any increase in mortality or abnormal clinical signs to our office or the USDA immediately. It has been noticed that a significant decrease in water consumption has been an early indicator in the affected flocks, so we encourage you to monitor this as well.**

Federal, state, and producer partners must work together to protect our poultry industry. Thank you for your efforts and continued partnership as we face this challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark J. Ernst, DVM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark J. Ernst

State Veterinarian  
Division of Food Safety and Animal Protection  
Illinois Department of Agriculture