



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 10, 2025

1:33 PM

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## **Backyard Flock in Dawson County Tests Positive for Avian Influenza**

Kearney – The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) has confirmed that a backyard flock in the Two Rivers Public Health Department District has tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The affected birds were depopulated to prevent further transmission of the virus. This latest case brings the total number of impacted backyard flocks in Nebraska to 4 affecting approximately 219 birds.

HPAI is a highly contagious virus that spreads easily among birds through nasal and eye secretions, as well as infected food, water, and manure. The virus can be spread in various ways from flock to flock, including by wild birds during migratory season, through contact with infected poultry, by equipment, and on the clothing and shoes of caretakers. HPAI is transmittable to humans, which poses a concern for both avian populations and local poultry owners.

At this time, there have been no human cases of HPAI identified in Nebraska. Individuals infected with HPAI can experience mild symptoms including: **fever, chills, pink eye, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headaches, and fatigue**. Some people may also experience diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting. Other individuals may experience more serious symptoms. Anyone who has had contact with suspected infectious animals should speak with their healthcare provider.

### **ABOUT TWO RIVERS PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Two Rivers Public Health Department engages collaborative partners, community leaders and the public to promote healthy lifestyles, provide preventative education, assure environmental quality, and create more healthy and safe communities for all who live within the district. Follow TRPHD on Facebook and Twitter @2RPHD