

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

Office of the Minister

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Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales

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May 8, 2023

Kevin Vallier
Secretary
Farm Fresh Ontario
kevin@farmfreshontario.com

Dear Kevin:

As you know, over the last year Ontario's poultry industry and bird owners have been managing the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza. Farmers, processors, transporters, and all those along the poultry supply chain have a role to play in limiting the spread of the disease.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, along with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Government of Canada and all the feather boards, have been preparing for this possible situation.

The best defence against avian influenza is strong biosecurity measures. We urge farmers to continue to uphold best practices and to take precautions to prevent any public interaction with poultry/birds on farms, agri-tourism and petting zoo operations. This includes establishing cleaning and disinfecting practices, preventing access to wildlife, pests and rodents, improvements to animal housing, establishing isolation or segregation facilities, to list a few.

Farmers who operate premises open to the public have unique risk factors and need to ensure that they take steps to limit interactions and maintain biosecurity.

Members of the public, as well as their pets, should avoid direct contact with sick or dead wildlife, including both wild birds and wild mammals, keep their dogs leashed when out in public, and if possible, keep cats indoors. People working with poultry should take additional precautions and are strongly encouraged to follow all public health guidelines and maintain strict biosecurity and report any signs of sick birds immediately to the CFIA.

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Please see the following link for more information on how to protect your flock from Avian Influenza: [Keep your birds safe](http://www://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/keep-your-birds-safe/eng/1642788775391/1642789242328) or www://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/keep-your-birds-safe/eng/1642788775391/1642789242328.

For direct access to the safety sheet please see the following links:

For English https://inspection.canada.ca/DAM/DAM-animals-animaux/STAGING/text-texte/keep_your_birds_safe_1642789667329_eng.pdf

For French https://inspection.canada.ca/DAM/DAM-animals-animaux/STAGING/text-texte/keep_your_birds_safe_1642789667329_fra.pdf.

I have also attached the safety sheet to this letter.

I would like to assure you that our government is here to support the CFIA and our poultry sector in our collective efforts to contain the disease and keep your flocks safe. You can find more information and resources about this situation, including biosecurity, on my ministry's website at [Avian Influenza](#) and through the [Agricultural Information Contact Centre](#).

OMAFRA will continue to work with the CFIA, who is leading the disease response, the Feather Board Command Centre and the small flock poultry sector to support farmers and poultry owners to reduce further spread of the disease.

Thank you for all of your work. I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

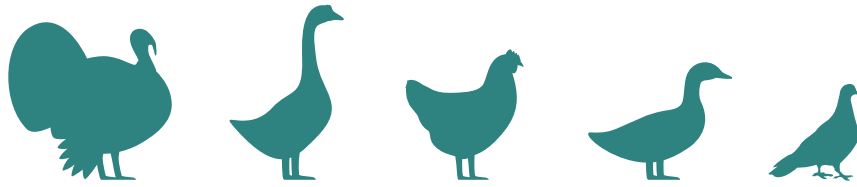


Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

c: The Honorable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

Did you know about the Farmers' Wellness Initiative?

- Your mental health is important! If you're a farmer or a member of a farm family and in need of mental health support, please call 1-866-267-6255 and arrange to speak with a professional today.
- For additional resources visit: <https://farmerwellnessinitiative.ca/>.



KEEP YOUR BIRDS SAFE

Follow these 5 tips to protect your flock from Avian Influenza (Bird Flu):



PREVENT CONTACT

with wild birds and other animals.



FREQUENTLY CLEAN

poultry coops, waterers, feeders, your clothing and your boots.



SPOT THE SIGNS

of Avian Influenza and report early to a veterinarian or the CFIA.



LIMIT EXPOSURE

to visitors.



SEPARATE BIRDS

Keep birds, their water and food away from wild birds.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



More information on how to protect your birds can be found at:
inspection.canada.ca/flock-protection

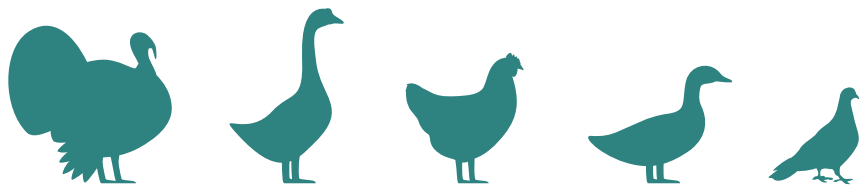
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Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canada



GARDEZ VOS OISEAUX EN SÉCURITÉ

Protégez vos oiseaux de l'influenza aviaire (la grippe aviaire)
en suivant les 5 règles de base suivantes :



EMPÊCHEZ LE CONTACT

avec les oiseaux sauvages
et autres animaux.



NETTOYEZ FRÉQUEMMENT

les poulaillers, les abreuvoirs,
les mangeoires, vos vêtements
et vos bottes.



REPÉREZ LES SIGNES

et signalez tôt à votre
vétérinaire ou à l'ACIA.



LIMITEZ L'EXPOSITION

aux visiteurs.



SÉPAREZ LES OISEAUX

Assurez-vous que vos oiseaux,
leur nourriture et leur eau
sont hors de portée
des oiseaux sauvages.



BALAYEZ
POUR EN
SAVOIR PLUS



Plus de conseils sur la façon de protéger votre troupeau
contre la grippe aviaire sont disponibles :

inspection.canada.ca/protection-des-volailles

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