Industry Avian Influenza Update

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Current situation

The H7 avian influenza response has come to an end.

Disease eradication activities have been successful; quarantine has been revoked on the four infected properties near Euroa and the control order surrounding the area has been lifted.

There are no longer movement restrictions in the Euroa area.

There have been no new cases of H7N8 high pathogenicity bird flu since late February 2025.

This progress is a significant step towards re-establishing Australia's claim to freedom from high pathogenicity avian influenza.

Victoria's Acting Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Sally Salmon said the disease had been eradicated thanks to the hard work of the poultry industry, local bird owners and the wider community.

"Early reporting from the first affected business meant we could act quickly, and their ongoing co-operation with all elements of the response has been a major factor in achieving eradication," Dr Salmon said.

Agriculture Victoria worked with the business to:

- safely and humanely dispose of 600,000 birds and 8.4 million eggs
- remove 6000 tonnes of waste
- clean and disinfect 21 sheds (plus one incubation centre)
- maintain strict biosecurity controls throughout the process.

Once the affected birds had been removed from the properties, more than 100 people have worked every day to clean and disinfect each site. Flocks of chickens were then placed and tested (sentinel chickens) to confirm the disease was gone.

Dr Salmon also thanked bird owners across the region for their support during the response.

"Thanks to local residents, we visited 350 properties, took 20,600 samples and completed 21,500 tests for the virus," she said.

"Surveillance is key to obtaining evidence to show that the disease hasn't spread. We couldn't have done this without the help of bird and poultry owners."

Local businesses also played an important role by supporting response staff. Food and fuel, accommodation, cleaning and security services, equipment hire and repair and maintenance supplies were provided to keep the response moving.

Now that the emergency response has concluded, poultry and bird owners across Victoria are reminded to continue to follow good biosecurity practices. These include:

- · keeping sheds, yards, aviaries and equipment clean
- limiting contact between poultry and wild birds
- cleaning footwear and washing hands before and after handling birds or eggs
- · quarantining new birds before mixing them with others

Every producer should have a biosecurity plan and know the signs of disease.

Any suspicion of an emergency animal disease (EAD) should be immediately reported to the 24-hour EAD Hotline on 1800 675 888 or to your local vet.

Need more information? Visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianflu



Quick links

- Access current situation and background information on the Agriculture Victoria website
- Information for backyard poultry owners
- Information for veterinarians
- Report sick or dead wild birds and wildlife
- View the <u>latest media releases</u>.

For questions relating to the response or to seek further information, contact the Customer Contact Centre on 136 186. Thank you for your efforts that supported eradication of H7 bird flu from Victoria.