

## Fall 2015 Avian Influenza Precautions

Avian influenza (Bird Flu or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza- "HPAI" is a natural disease among many waterfowl, shorebird and raptor species. This flu has little direct effect on waterfowl, but occasionally transforms into a strain that can affect poultry and quickly cause mortality. Strains of lethal HPAI have affected poultry facilities in the Pacific Northwest and Upper Midwest over the past several months. HPAI is not presently known to infect humans.

With waterfowl now beginning southward migration and the hunting season approaching, it is important to consider some precautions that may help reduce the possibility of spreading strains of this disease to poultry in Tennessee.

Specifically, we encourage waterfowl hunters that may raise poultry, work on poultry farms, or visit poultry farms to change all outer layers of their hunting clothing, including boots, before entering any premise that has poultry. The easy way to do this is to wear outer hunting garments that can be taken off before entering poultry facilities, bagging them bag them in a black plastic trash bags, and put them directly into the laundry. Wear rubber boots that can be treated with bleach before and after entering poultry facilities. Boots can be dipped in a bucket or other container containing a 10% bleach solution and then bagged. It is best to treat boots and remove outer garments before entering your vehicle so that virus will not be transferred to seats and floors and contaminate other clothing items at a later time.

We believe that a little extra precaution will assist with preventing the spread of any strain of flu that occurs in wild birds to poultry facilities.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/avianflu/usresources.html>