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February 2022, Early Short Course Registration

1 message

Southeastern Gamebird Breeders & Hunting Preserve Assoc.

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Sat, Feb 12, 2022 at 5:35

PM



Newsletter

Southeastern Game Bird Breeders & Hunting Preserve Association

No. 2, February 2022

*Scroll to the Secretary's Corner for early registration for our 2022 Short
Course and Conference.*

Additional Cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian

Influenza Found in Wild Birds

APHIS will post these and all future wild bird findings on its website on a weekly basis

PUBLISHED ON January 19, 2022

WASHINGTON — The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed two additional findings of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds – one in Colleton County, South Carolina and one in Hyde County, North Carolina. These finds follow confirmation on January 14, 2022 of HPAI in a wild bird in Colleton County, South Carolina. All three findings are H5N1 HPAI.

These findings are not unexpected, as wild birds can be infected with HPAI and show no signs of illness. They can carry the disease to new areas when migrating. APHIS anticipates additional wild bird findings as our robust wild bird sampling program continues into the spring.

APHIS will post these and all future wild bird findings on its **website** on a weekly basis. Stakeholders should check the website on a routine basis, as no future stakeholder announcements are planned for wild bird findings.

Since wild birds can be infected with these viruses without appearing sick, people should minimize direct contact with wild birds by using gloves. If contact occurs, wash your hands with soap and water, and change clothing before having any contact with healthy domestic poultry and birds. Hunters should dress game birds in the field whenever possible and practice good biosecurity to prevent any potential disease spread. Biosecurity information is available at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2015/fsc_hpai_hunters.pdf.

Given these additional findings, anyone involved with poultry – commercial or backyard flocks alike – should review their biosecurity plan and enhance their biosecurity practices to assure the health of their birds. APHIS has materials about biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and a toolkit available for producers on our website.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, either through their state veterinarian or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found at <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>.

Additional background

Avian influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and is carried by free flying waterfowl such as ducks, geese and shorebirds. AI viruses are classified by a combination of two groups of proteins: hemagglutinin or "H" proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16),

and neuraminidase or “N” proteins, of which there are 9 (N1–N9). Many different combinations of “H” and “N” proteins are possible. Each combination is considered a different subtype and can be further broken down into different strains which circulate within flyways/geographic regions. AI viruses are further classified by their pathogenicity (low or high)—the ability of a particular virus strain to produce disease in domestic chickens.

–USDA APHI

High Path Avian Influenza Confirmed in Wild Birds at Three Sites in NC

*High Path Avian Influenza has now been confirmed in 53
hunter-harvested wild waterfowl*

PUBLISHED ON January 27, 2022

High Path Avian Influenza has now been confirmed in 53 hunter-harvested wild waterfowl at three sites in North Carolina. These sites are Hyde County, a site located on the Pamlico/Beaufort County line and a new site in Bladen County. These are the first wild birds in the United States to have Eurasian H5 HPAI since 2016. The positive samples were collected by USDA as part of its ongoing surveillance program for early detection of HPAI in collaboration with state wildlife agencies. (photo by Clemson University)

RALEIGH, N.C. – High Path Avian Influenza has now been confirmed in 53 hunter-harvested wild waterfowl at three sites in North Carolina. These sites are Hyde County, a site located on the Pamlico/Beaufort County line and a new site in Bladen County. These are the first wild birds in the United States to have Eurasian H5 HPAI since 2016. The positive samples were collected by USDA as part of its ongoing surveillance program for early detection of HPAI in collaboration with state wildlife agencies.

“These findings continue to support evidence that high path avian influenza is currently present in the Atlantic Americas migratory flyway,” said State Veterinarian Mike Martin. “Wild birds can carry this virus asymptotically and potentially spread it to domestic poultry. We strongly encourage all poultry owners to follow strict biosecurity measures for at least the next 30 days, which is the time frame these birds are anticipated to be migrating through the state.”

Biosecurity measures include keeping your birds isolated from other people and animals in an enclosed environment. Bird owners should also keep their flock away from ponds where they might encounter migrating birds.

“While sampling is occurring in the eastern part of the state, the Atlantic Americas migratory flyway covers the entire state. This means that all bird owners need to implement strong biosecurity measures and keep their birds in an enclosed environment,” Martin said.

This type of HPAI virus is considered a low risk to people according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, but it can be dangerous to other birds,

including commercial and backyard flocks of poultry. HPAI is also not a food safety issue.

All bird owners are encouraged to know the warning signs of Avian Influenza and implement steps to protect their flock.

The warning signs of HPAI include:

- Reduced energy, decreased appetite, and/or decreased activity
- Lower egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb and wattles
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb and legs
- Difficulty breathing, runny nares (nose), and/or sneezing
- Twisting of the head and neck, stumbling, falling down, tremors and/or circling
- Greenish diarrhea

If your birds are sick or dying, report it right away to your local veterinarian, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary Division at 919-707-3250, or the N.C. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System at 919-733-3986.

For more information on avian influenza and additional steps you can take to protect your flock visit www.ncagr.gov/avianflu.

–Heather Overton, NCDA&CS

HPAI Confirmed in Indiana Turkeys

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial turkey flock in Dubois County, Indiana. This is the first confirmed case of HPAI in commercial poultry in the United States since 2020.

Read the full report here:

[ps://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/sa-2022/hpai-indiana](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/stakeholder-info/sa_by_date/sa-2022/hpai-indiana), NAGA

Practice Bio-Security on Your Game Bird Operation

RICHMOND, Va. — The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed Highly Pathogenic Eurasian H5N1 Avian Influenza (HPAI) in wild waterfowl in North Carolina and South Carolina. Additionally, HPAI has been identified in a mixed poultry flock in Newfoundland, Canada. HPAI has not been detected in a wild bird in the United States since 2016.

“All poultry owners should take practical biosecurity measures to protect their birds from Avian Influenza. Biosecurity measures include preventing exposure of poultry to areas where wild birds are present, and being vigilant about not bringing infectious materials from wild birds into contact with poultry,” said Dr. Charlie Broaddus, State Veterinarian with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds. Biosecurity information to include videos, checklists, and a toolkit, is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/df-resources/df-resources. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found at <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>.

Since wild birds can be infected with these viruses without appearing sick, people should minimize direct contact with wild birds by using gloves. If contact occurs, wash your hands with soap and water, and change clothing before having any contact with healthy domestic poultry and birds. Hunters should dress game birds in the field whenever possible and practice good biosecurity to prevent any potential disease spread. Hunters can find additional biosecurity information at www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2015/fsc_hpai_hunters.pdf. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to the general public from HPAI H5 infections to be low. No human infections with Eurasian H5 viruses have occurred in the United States. The proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165°F kills bacteria and viruses, including HPAI. While the CDC considers this type of HPAI virus as a low risk to humans, it is a serious threat to poultry farms and owners of backyard flocks.

In addition to practicing biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to your State Veterinarian’s Office.

–Michael Wallace, VDACS

Poultry Hobbyists, Waterfowl Hunters Urged to Take
Precautions to Prevent Avian Influenza
*Smaller-scale poultry producers are urged to step up their
biosecurity*

PUBLISHED ON February 6, 2022

A strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in North America for the first time since 2016. The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed HPAI in wild waterfowl in Virginia on Jan. 26, following detection in the Carolinas. (photo by Clemson University)

RICHMOND, Va. — A strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in North America for the first time since 2016. The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed HPAI in wild waterfowl in Virginia on Jan. 26, following detection in the Carolinas.

While Virginia's commercial poultry growers routinely implement high levels of biosecurity, smaller-scale poultry producers and hobbyists are urged to step up their biosecurity practices as well.

While the virus poses little risk to humans, it is easily transmitted from wild birds to domestic poultry if flock owners don't take action to keep their birds safe.

A recent **biosecurity alert** from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services said that confirmed cases of avian flu were found in two hunter-harvested wild migratory waterfowl in Henrico County. While the detection of HPAI in migrating waterfowl is not unexpected, outbreaks can be disastrous to Virginia's largest agricultural sector, resulting in total flock depopulations.

Wild birds like ducks or geese can be infected with HPAI without appearing sick. Just a small amount of fecal material carried on a human's boot can harm poultry in large-scale commercial operations and small backyard flocks.

Keeping your flock safe and preventing HPAI's spread comes down to good common sense, said Robert Mills of Pittsylvania County, who raises chickens for Perdue and chairs the **Virginia Farm Bureau Federation Poultry Advisory Committee**.

Mills said it's wise to limit guests from any area where poultry live, including backyard chicken coops.

"Hang out in the cabin, come to the shop, but don't go near the poultry house," he advised. "And stay away from any type of waterfowl."

Waterfowl droppings can be tracked from any area where game birds congregate, like ponds, golf courses and parking lots. Those who hunt or encounter waterfowl should avoid poultry areas if possible. If going near a flock, they should clean and disinfect equipment, clothing and shoes to remove feces, feathers and litter. Disease agents can survive for months inside those organic materials.

"One little problem can become a big problem real quick," Mills said.

Tony Banks, VFBF senior assistant director of **agriculture, development and innovation**, said once avian flu is identified in poultry, quarantines, additional disease monitoring and heightened sanitation go into effect. In some cases, growers will avoid public encounters with others in the industry altogether. He recalled a different, low pathogenic avian influenza that caused significant losses for Virginia poultry owners in 2002, affecting over 140 farms before disease spread could be controlled.

"Virginia's poultry industry lost millions of dollars in sales and were shut out of export markets," Banks said. "This outbreak led to increased emphasis among the USDA and states to conduct avian influenza surveillance and monitoring, which continues today."

Virginia poultry owners should report unusual poultry illnesses or deaths to the state veterinarian's office at 804-692-0601 or **vastatevet@vdacs.virginia**.

gov, or through the USDA's toll-free number, 866-536-7593. Learn more flock biosecurity tips at USDA's Defend the Flock Resource Center, at bit.ly/3AJm8FX. Guidance for waterfowl hunters can be reviewed at bit.ly/3GIQUG6.

–Virginia Farm Bureau

In interview, Dr. Matt Koci Talks About the Virus and the Economic Impact if it Were to Reach Commercial Poultry Flocks

(Article is referencing Chicken Flocks) FEBRUARY 3, 2022 **ROY GRABER**

You wouldn't necessarily think that a virologist and immunologist would be an authority on the topic of economics, but Dr. Matt Koci, professor of immunology, virology and host-pathogen interactions at North Carolina State University (NC State), recently made some pretty good points about how economically damaging it would be if the **highly pathogenic avian influenza** (HPAI) virus found in wild birds would spread into the state's commercial poultry flocks.

The transcript of an interview with Koci appears on the **NC State News webpage**, and it is a good read.

He offered a lot of good information concerning the virus: how it can spread, how it can even spread into humans, how to prevent its spread and how there is zero risk of getting it by consuming chicken.

Yet it was his economic analysis that was potentially the most telling.

“It would be devastating if it got into commercial poultry in N.C. Poultry production in N.C. brings in over \$4.7 billion, and that's just from farm sales. When you factor in all the jobs around poultry production, processing, cooking, and consuming, the economic impact of poultry goes up to around \$40 billion,” Koci said.

“And it's not just dollars and cents. N.C. accounts for about 12% of all the poultry production in the United States. If you think grocery store shelves are sparse now, just think how much worse that could get if we lost 12% of the poultry meat and eggs in the U.S.”

I hope Koci's interview is widely read. Avian influenza should be a topic of great concern for residents of the state, particularly because there have been 53 instances of HPAI being confirmed in hunter-harvested birds in the state thus far, with more positive tests expected. If people pay attention to his words and follow his recommendations, it can only help.

View our continuing coverage of the **global avian influenza situation**.

USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signups for 2022

Producers and landowners enrolled 4.6 million acres into CRP signups in 2021

PUBLISHED ON January 27, 2022

“We highly encourage farmers, ranchers and private landowners to consider the enrollment options available through CRP,” said Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). “Last year, we rolled out a better, bolder program, and we highly encourage you to consider its higher payment rates and other incentives. CRP is another way that we’re putting producers and landowners at the center of climate-smart solutions that generate revenue and benefit our planet.” (USDA FSA, Public Domain)

WASHINGTON — Agricultural producers and landowners can sign up soon for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a cornerstone conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris Administration effort to address climate change and achieve other natural resource benefits. The General CRP signup will run from Jan. 31 to March 11, and the Grassland CRP signup will run from April 4 to May 13.

“We highly encourage farmers, ranchers and private landowners to consider the enrollment options available through CRP,” said Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). “Last year, we rolled out a better, bolder program, and we highly encourage you to consider its higher payment rates and other incentives. CRP is another way that we’re putting producers and landowners at the center of climate-smart solutions that generate revenue and benefit our planet.”

Producers and landowners enrolled 4.6 million acres into CRP signups in 2021, including 2.5 million acres in the largest Grassland CRP signup in history. There are currently 22.1 million acres enrolled, and FSA is aiming to reach the 25.5-million-acre cap statutorily set for fiscal year 2022.

CRP Signups

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Meanwhile, Grassland CRP is a working lands program, helping landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as working grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations and provides important carbon sequestration benefits to deliver lasting climate outcomes.

Alongside these programs, producers and landowners can enroll acres in Continuous CRP under the ongoing sign up, which includes projects available through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE).
Climate Benefits

Last year, FSA enacted a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for CRP General and Continuous signups, to better target CRP on addressing climate change. This incentive aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CRP's climate-smart practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses, development of wildlife habitat and wetland restoration. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is annual, and the amount is based on the benefits of each practice type.

Additionally, in order to better target the program toward climate outcomes, USDA invested \$10 million last year in the CRP Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation (MAE) program to measure and monitor the soil carbon and climate resilience impacts of conservation practices over the life of new CRP contracts. This will enable the agency to further refine the program and practices to provide producers tools for increased climate resilience.

More Information on CRP

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local **USDA Service Center** to learn more or to apply for the program — for General CRP before the March 11 deadline, and for Grassland CRP before the May 13 deadline. Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Due to the pandemic, some **USDA Service Centers** are open to limited visitors. Additionally, fact sheets and other resources are available at fsa.usda.gov/crp.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender—USDA

New John Deere Signature Edition Gators

Designed with premium, automotive-inspired features

PUBLISHED ON January 18, 2022

CARY, N.C. — John Deere, a world leader in providing advanced products and services for customers whose work is linked to the land, has introduced the XUV835R Signature Edition Gator™ Utility Vehicle and the XUV865R Signature Edition Gator Utility Vehicle. Both are designed with premium, automotive-inspired features that take John Deere's line of utility vehicles to the next level for customers.

The XUV835R and XUV865R Signature Edition vehicles are the premium models for John Deere enthusiasts. In addition to the features that Deere customers have come to expect, including a climate-controlled cab, easier shifting with an integrated park brake, informative instrument cluster, and 4-wheel drive and differential lock with the flip of a switch, Signature Edition Gator Utility Vehicles come standard with the following:

- Genuine leather seats and leather-wrapped grab handles that are easy to clean
- Integrated touchscreen infotainment system delivers automotive-grade smartphone integration, rear-facing camera, Bluetooth® wireless connectivity, AM/FM, and SiriusXM® satellite radio.
- Memorable audio experience with a seven-speaker sound system, professionally tuned by Harmon
- Rear-facing camera displays image on the infotainment screen with the push of a button to provide better visibility when attaching trailers or spreading materials like seed or salt.
- Bumper Pro Brush Guard protects the front of the vehicle, provides rubber bumpers for pushing gates, and features a center screen to keep debris from entering the radiator
- Front roof-mounted LED driving lights
- Rear-sliding window

“At John Deere, ‘Signature Edition’ means top of the line with the best features and upgrades,” said Maureen McCormack, Go-to-Market Manager, Gator Utility Vehicles. “That’s exactly what you’ll get with Signature Edition Gator Utility Vehicles – leather seats, touchscreen infotainment system, high-end audio, rear-facing camera – it’s the best of the best in UVs.”

Signature Edition Gator Utility Vehicles will arrive at John Deere dealerships beginning in April 2022. Those interested in the XUV835R and XUV865R Signature Edition Vehicles can contact their local John Deere dealer to learn more or place an order. For more information about John Deere and the full line of Gator UV products, visit the John Deere website.

About John Deere

Deere & Company (www.JohnDeere.com) is a world leader in providing advanced products, technology and services for customers whose work is revolutionizing agriculture and construction — those who cultivate, harvest, transform, enrich and build upon the land to meet the world's increasing need for food, fuel, shelter and infrastructure.

— Deere & Company

Hunters Who Harvest a Tagged Coyote Can Earn Free Lifetime License

Any hunter who successfully takes and reports a tagged coyote will be rewarded with a free lifetime license. (USFWS photo)

Hunters who harvest a tagged coyote can earn free lifetime license

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) released 16 more tagged coyotes statewide recently as part of the Coyote Harvest Incentive Program, and any hunter who successfully takes and reports one of these tagged coyotes will be rewarded with a free lifetime license. coyoteUSFWS



The Coyote Harvest Incentive Program was created in 2016 by the General Assembly, which directed SCDNR to develop and implement a coyote tagging and reward program. Annually, SCDNR traps, tags and releases four coyotes per game zone (16 total). Anyone who successfully takes and reports a tagged coyote will be rewarded with a free lifetime hunting license. The

person reporting the tagged coyote has the option to designate anyone for the lifetime license such as a child, relative, or friend.

Over the last five years, a total of 96 coyotes have been tagged and released, including the 16 that were recently released. To date, about half of the tagged coyotes have been reported taken. Coyotes tagged in any year are eligible for the lifetime license incentive. The specially marked tags provide contact information directly on them. Only the uniquely identifiable SCDNR coyote tags are eligible for the lifetime license as there are potentially some coyotes that have been tagged for research purposes.

For more information on the Coyote Harvest Incentive Program, visit <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/coyote/coyoteincentive.html.coyotetag3>
Only the uniquely identifiable SCDNR coyote tags are eligible for the lifetime license.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Rembert C. Dennis
Building

[1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201](https://www.dnr.sc.gov) February 2, 2022



Beekeeping **With Ali** **Pinion**

NCAT Gulf States office's Felicia Bell will be hosting a free, virtual workshop on beekeeping on February 16, 2022. Beekeeper Ali Pinion will share insights about getting started in beekeeping on a budget, alternative beekeeping methods, revenue

sources from hives, and much more. Pre-registration is required.

Weekly Harvest February 2, 2022

Hydrogen Peroxide Shows Promise to Disinfect Hatcheries

Click on the link to read article

https://www.wattagnet.com/articles/44381-hydrogen-peroxide-shows-promise-to-disinfect-hatcheries?utm_source=Omeda&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=NLPoultry+Future&utm_campaign=NLPoultry+Future_20220201_0430&oly_enc_id=9674G8152645I9T

[WATTSNET.COM](https://www.wattagnet.com)

Secretary' Corner: This month's Secretary's Corner will be early registration for our 2022 Short Course and Conference. Be safe and happy hunting, and Happy Valentines Day.

2022 Short Course & Conference

Our 2022 Conference and Short is scheduled for April 29 at the Georgia Poultry Lab in Gainesville, GA. Further information will be forthcoming. However, if you would like to register early, a registration form is listed below. Last year at our meeting in GA, many of our attendees booked rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn in Gainesville (855-357-2125).

Registration for the SEGB&HPA 2022 Short Course & Conference

Name or Business Name; _____

Email Address: _____

Early Registration fee for individual or family: \$50

There will be additional costs for meals. Don't forget to bring an item (items) for the auction. The auction is a win-win for our treasury.

Registration on Site: \$75

Tentative Speakers:

Dr. Doug Anderson, GA Poultry Lab, Game Bird Disease Update

Kevin Campbell, Cargill Feeds, What's Happening in the Feed World

Dr. Dwight Mercer, Combating Ulcerative Enteritis

Thetis Sammons, Azomite, A Nutrient Additive

Greg Koch, Raising Awareness and Expectations of Bobwhite Performance

Please make checks payable to the SEGB&HPA and remit to

Dr. Gary S. Davis

[2627 Hitchcock Dr.](#)

[Durham, NC 27705](#)

A schedule and agenda will be in our next newsletters.

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