

# Avian Influenza



## What it is –

- Avian influenza viruses are highly contagious, extremely variable viruses that are widespread in birds.
- Wild birds in aquatic habitats are the natural reservoir hosts, but domesticated poultry are readily infected.
- Most viruses cause only mild disease in poultry and are called low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) viruses.
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) viruses can develop from certain LPAI viruses, usually while they are circulating in avian populations.
- HPAI viruses can cause 90-100% mortality in infected flocks, and cause epidemics that may spread rapidly, devastate the poultry industry and result in severe trade restrictions.
- Trade restrictions also result from infection of poultry with LPAI viruses.
- Avian influenza viruses occasionally affect mammals, including humans, usually after close contact with infected poultry.

## Control–

- The Animal Industry Board continues to work together with South Dakota's poultry industry and other state and federal agencies to prepare for and respond to introductions of influenza in poultry.
- The AIB also works cooperatively with the commercial poultry industries of SD to maintain an Avian Influenza surveillance program.
- The Animal Industry Board has foam equipment available for depopulation.
  - Please contact AIB at 605-773-3321 or [aibmail@state.sd.us](mailto:aibmail@state.sd.us) for more information
  - [HPAI - Equipment Lease Agreement](#)
  - [HPAI - Equipment Check Form](#)

## Additional Resources:

- [USDA APHIS – Avian Influenza](#)
- [AI Brochure](#)
- [Biosecurity for Birds](#)