

### **What is avian influenza?**

- Avian influenza is a rapidly spreading viral disease that mainly affects birds.

### **Is it contagious, who is susceptible and how is it transmitted?**

- Yes, it is contagious.
- Although rare, humans and other mammals can be vulnerable to the disease.
- The disease may spread through contact with infected birds or ingestion of infected food or water.
- Birds are the most susceptible animal.
- Exists naturally in wild birds.

### **What are the symptoms?**

- Cough
- Sneezing
- Respiratory distress
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden death

### **How do I avoid it or stop it from spreading?**

- Notify veterinarian of any suspected disease.
- Stay informed about the health of neighboring birds.
- Do not move animals from farm to farm.
- Keep flock away from wild birds.
- Be sure your birds have no contact with contaminated birds.
- Isolate new birds.
- Restrict unauthorized people and vehicles from the farm
- Disinfect tires, equipment and clothing going on and off the farm
- Quarantine contaminated area and birds immediately
- Dispose of all dead birds properly

### **How is it treated?**

- At this time there is no known treatment

### **Are there public health risks?**

- Although rare, humans and other mammals can be vulnerable to the disease. If you have come in contact with the disease and are showing symptoms, report it to your physician immediately
- There have been no reported cases due to consumption of infected, cooked meat.