Can you get AI from eating poultry or eggs?
• AI is not a food-borne illness in the U.S. Any HPAI infected poultry would not be allowed entry into the food chain. The infected flock would be destroyed.
• Properly prepared poultry meat and eggs are safe to eat. Cook poultry to an internal temperature of 165 °F.

What type of poultry monitoring is being done?
• AI has been a concern to the poultry industry long before the HP H5N1 strain appeared. Monitoring in the U.S. for AI is routine and will be continued.
• In South Carolina, through Clemson University Veterinary Diagnostic Center, AI testing is performed on commercial and backyard poultry, and wild waterfowl. Animal autopsies are performed on all poultry submissions to the laboratory.
• Commercial broiler, turkey and egg layer flocks are testing under the National Poultry Improvement Plan AI monitoring program.
• Monitoring is performed at poultry auctions, flea markets, fairs and exhibitions.

Will HP H5N1 come to the U.S. or SC?
• No one knows if, when, or how it might come.
• Possible routes include legal and illegal movement of infected birds or poultry products, infected migratory waterfowl, or an intentional introduction (Agroterrorism).
• Firewalls are in place: U.S. bans all birds from affected HPAI areas and there is increased monitoring in U.S. poultry & wild waterfowl.
• Even if U.S. migratory fowl get the HP H5N1 strain, it is still a low risk to commercial poultry, since these birds are sheltered and kept separated from wild birds.
• Backyard flocks also need to keep their birds separated from wild birds.
• Strict Biosecurity is the best way for all poultry growers (commercial and backyard) to protect their flocks from all diseases, including AI (see www.SCAgWatch.com).
• Even with the worse case scenario of a HPAI infection in U.S. poultry, the average person will not get “Bird Flu” from birds. People working with infected flocks will wear protective gear as a safety precaution.

CULPH and the USDA are prepared to respond with early detection, rapid diagnostic procedures and experience in aggressive quarantine, depopulation and clean up actions.

Does SC have a plan to deal with Avian Flu?
• Yes, CULPH has a State Response and Containment Plan for Avian Influenza. This plan would partner with USDA’s national response plan.
• In any influenza epidemic or pandemic effecting people it would be a human issue. SC DHEC has a state plan to respond to a human pandemic, whether it would be initiated by this HP H5N1 virus or another future virus.

For more information on Avian Influenza:
• http://www.clemson.edu/LPH (under News & Updates)
• http://www.avianinfluenzainfo.com
• http://www.avianflu.gov
• http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian

For more information on Biosecurity and the SC Ag-Watch Program, contact:
Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health
(803) 788-2260
www.SCAgWatch.com
What is Avian Influenza / Bird Flu?
- Yes, we have other types of AI in U.S. There are occasional
- HP H5N1 has not been detected in U.S. wild or domestic

Do we have Avian Flu in United States now?
- No, all avian influenzas viruses are not created equal. There are many different types of AI: some produce no disease, some mild signs and others produce severe signs in poultry. The different subtype names: H5N1, H7N1, H7N2, etc., are named for the H and N surface proteins on virus. Even a H5N1 may not be the same virus as another H5N1.
- Low-Path vs. High-Path: pathogenicity is the ability to cause disease. Low-Path (LP) viruses may cause no to mild disease signs. High-Path (HP) viruses cause severe disease signs in birds: severe respiratory/neurolgic signs, high death rate.
- H5 & H7 are the two subtypes of concern in poultry. These subtypes can change from Low to High-Path.
- The "Asian Bird Flu" is caused by a particular HP H5N1 strain. H5 & H7 are the two subtypes of concern in poultry. These subtypes can change from Low to High-Path.
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How does Avian Flu spread in birds?
- Chickens, ducks and other poultry do not spontaneously erup with avian influenza. This is a virus, just like other influenza viruses, that needs to be spread around to infect other birds. The virus is found in nasal secretions and feces of infected birds. The virus is spread through movement of infected birds or movement of virus containing coops, equipment, vehicles, personnel boots, etc. that can infect new birds.
- The virus can be killed with disinfectants, heat and drying; but if protected within organic material (manure, feathers, egg debris, etc.) it can survive for weeks.

What are the signs of Avian Flu in birds?
- AI is primarily a disease problem in poultry-type birds (chickens, turkeys, quail, etc.).
- Disease signs in poultry are variable since it can depend on the virus subtype (H1, H5, H7, etc.) and if the virus is Low-Path or High-Path. Infected birds may show no symptoms or mild to severe symptoms, including depression, respiratory signs, neurologic signs, decreased egg production, low to high death rate.
- These signs can be seen in other diseases as well, so a proper laboratory diagnosis is needed.

What about sick birds or large die-offs?
- An occasional dead bird found is not an unusual occurrence in birds (as of this printdated flocks).
- Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health (CULPH) investigates unusual poultry illness or death to help owners and veterinarians determine the cause of illness or death.
- Large numbers of birds dying or found dead (wild or domesticated) need to be reported. Report domestic poultry birds to CULPH at (803)-788-2260. Report wild birds to SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) at 800-822-5431. State specialists will determine if further investigation or testing will need to be performed if they suspect an emergency type disease.

What happens to an AI infected flock?
- The farm is quarantined by the State Veterinarian to stop movement of birds, eggs, manure, and equipment.
- Mandatory Biosecurity measures are implemented for people and vehicles to enter and exit the farm.
- Depending on HP type, the infected flock may be depopulated and disposed of for at least 5 days.
- Movement of poultry may be stopped in that area until the scope of the outbreak is determined.
- Poultry auctions, shows and other exhibitions may be closed temporarily.
- Depopulation of birds occurs with permission from the State Veterinarian.

What about vaccinating poultry for AI?
- Vaccinating poultry for AI would only be considered during an outbreak to control the spread of infection.
- Vaccination is not routinely used since it could interfere with monitoring testing, since both an infected bird and a vaccinated bird can give a positive test.
- Vaccination may not prevent the birds from being infected or spreading the virus, but it can help reduce clinical disease and death loss.
- The best protection against AI is practicing Biosecurity measures to protect your birds.

What about migrating waterfowl & hunters?
- In South Carolina, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services and DNR conduct wild bird monitoring as an early detection system for HP H5N1.
- While it is unlikely that hunters can get AI from wild birds, routine precautions are recommended to reduce the risk of contracting any type of wildlife disease. Do not eat, drink, smoke or chew while cleaning any bird or animal carcass. Use hand-washing (hand-washing after handling wild animals or carcasses) along with proper food preparation and thorough cooking.

What about international travel?
- The big concern is accidentally bringing back a foreign animal disease through contaminated clothing, hides, feathers, food products, etc. back to your animals.
- If you have contact with foreign livestock or poultry, you should not even go near any types of U.S. livestock or birds after contact for at least 5 days.
- Thoroughly clean all travel clothing, shoes and equipment after returning home.

Do I have Avian Flu from Avian Flu?
- Practice Biosecurity – disease prevention management:
  - People – If you visit another poultry farm, bird show or live bird market, remember to shower, change clothing and footwear before working with your birds. Have visitors wash and dry clothing and footwear. Spread of disease.
  - Equipment – Do not share equipment or vehicles from other farms. If you do wash and disinfect before and after use. Wash and disinfect your vehicle/trailer/crates (including tires and undercarriage) after leaving a poultry farm, show or market. Keep your bird houses, pens, equipment and work areas clean and sanitary.
  - Birds – Keep a closed flock. Do not bring new birds from poultry shows & markets back into the flock – this is a great way to introduce any disease. Separate new birds away from the flock for 4 weeks to see if they show any signs of disease. Keep your bird separate from wild birds and from lakes or ponds that may be used by wild waterfowl. Take sick or dead birds to a diagnostic lab to determine cause of illness.
  - Rodents – Keep rodents and wild birds away from your poultry buildings and pens. Use rodent bait stations, keep the grass cut, pick up garbage piles and don’t allow wild birds to nest near your poultry.
  - Food products, etc. back to your animals.

Can people get Avian Flu?
- Since 1959, there have been reports of people infected with AI, but with no serious illness or deaths.
- 1997 in Hong Kong – was the 1st time it was confirmed that HPAI (H5N1) caused disease and death in some people. These people had very close contact or ate raw undercooked infected poultry. Humans are still considered to be resistant to this current bird virus.