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Egg Farmers*  
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# Avian Influenza Update

Prairie Livestock Expo December 14, 2022

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1

- ▶ Avian influenza is a contagious viral infection that can affect many poultry species. Wild birds, particularly geese, ducks and shorebirds, are known to transmit the virus between regions during spring and fall migration.
- ▶ Through 2022, an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), H5N1 strain, occurred in wild and domestic birds across Canada and USA. **It is not over yet.**

Confirmed Cases of HPAI, Subtype H5N1 in North America					
Canada			United States		
Confirmed by CFIA as of November 16, 2022			Confirmed by USDA as of November 16, 2022		
Infected Premises (commercial poultry, small flock poultry and small flock non-poultry)	Affected Provinces (AB, BC, MB, NB, NL, NS, ON, QC and SK)	HPAI Positive Wild Birds across Canada	Infected Commercial Flocks	Infected Backyard Flocks	Affected States
204	9	1,745	265	358	46

# HPAI in Manitoba

- ▶ In Manitoba, the first infected premises of HPAI in commercial poultry was identified on April 23, 2022. During the fall migration season, additional 16 outbreaks were confirmed in commercial poultry. This is the first time for our province to deal with HPAI in such magnitude.
- ▶ As a result, Manitoba Egg Farmers, Manitoba Chicken Producers, and Manitoba Turkey Producers, along with Manitoba Agriculture, jointly developed a “Manitoba Movement Group” in October to facilitate the permit applications required by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) pertaining to designated HPAI Primary Control Zones in our province.

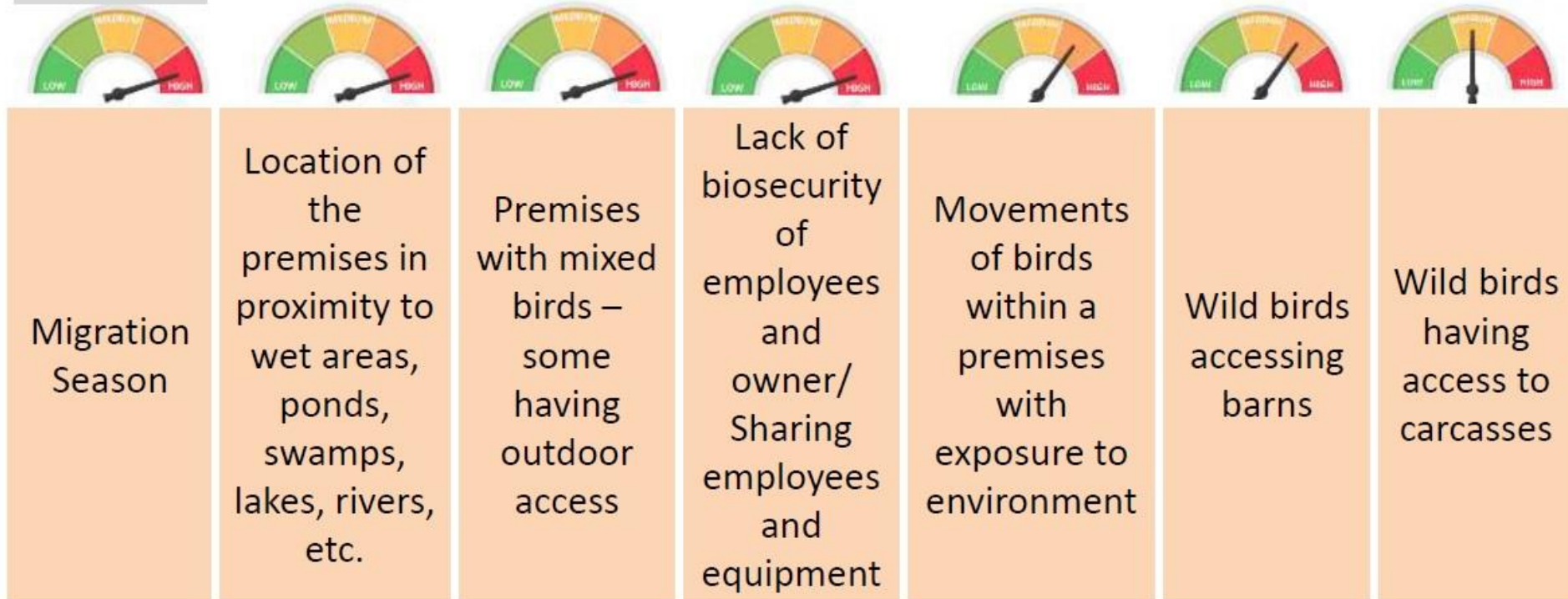
# Lessons from the First Wave of the Outbreak

- ▶ Information shared by CFIA's Outbreak Investigation Overview of HPAI outbreaks from December 2021 to September 2022
- ▶ Responses in poultry species are different:
  - **“Silent Infection” in chickens particularly broilers:** some cases without increased mortality nor clinical signs; increase in mortality 7-10 days after laboratory confirmation of the infection
  - **Ducks and geese:** main clinical signs: neurological; long incubation period and high level of shedding in the environment
  - **Turkeys:** More susceptible to AI viruses than chickens; display severe clinical signs

# Lessons from the First Wave of the Outbreak

Observed environment/management/biosecurity risk factors on  
**Commercial Farms**

Frequencies



# Key Biosecurity Recommendations

- ▶ Avoid exposure of poultry flocks to wild waterfowl and their droppings.
- ▶ Prevent contamination of feed sources and water supplies.
- ▶ Prompt clean-up of even minor feed spills and removal of any standing water around the barn.
- ▶ Move manure piles and compost piles well away from the barn and pathways. If possible, additional temporary steps should be taken to prevent scavenging of mortalities, such as using inside storage e.g. freezers or closed bins.
- ▶ Separate footwear and clothing or disposable boots and coveralls for all staff and visitors entering poultry facilities. Limit movement of equipment between poultry barns, and ensure that clothing and equipment are cleaned and sanitized upon removal from a barn.
- ▶ Reduce movement onto yards and into barns to only essential needs. Where possible, other external contacts (e.g. delivery of supplies, garbage pickup, etc.) should occur off the yard, at the farm gate.

# Take-Home Messages

- ▶ AI viruses can be transmitted between flocks via movement of infected birds, infected pests (rodents, flies) or on contaminated equipment, clothing, footwear, vehicles, water and feed.
- ▶ Biosecurity measures must be practiced at all times by everyone entering the poultry facility including farmers, helpers, employees, service industry personnel and visitors such as farm gate sale customers.
- ▶ HPAI is not a food safety concern. There is no evidence to suggest that eating cooked poultry or eggs could transmit HPAI to humans.

**QUESTIONS?**