

Industry Avian Influenza Update

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Current situation

H7 avian influenza (bird flu) is confirmed at a fourth poultry property in northern Victoria near Euroa. All infected properties are within the control area and under quarantine.

Diagnostic tests confirmed a high pathogenicity strain of H7N8. The tests were done at CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness in Geelong.

This is a new outbreak and not related to the 2024 outbreaks in Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. The past outbreak was successfully eradicated.

This is not the H5N1 bird flu strain that is impacting other parts of the world.

A restricted area with a radius of about 5 km is in place around the infected properties. This is part of a larger control area in Strathbogie Shire, east of the Goulburn Valley Freeway to prevent movements that could spread the virus. Townships impacted include:

- Euroa
- Violet Town
- Longwood
- Ruffy
- Avenel
- Strathbogie.

The control and restricted areas have specific rules. Poultry owners in the restricted area with 50 or more birds need to follow a housing requirement.

Agriculture Victoria is actively working with property owners. The first two properties have finished humane destruction of poultry on site. Work is underway at the third and fourth properties.

Report cases of suspect disease and unexplained bird deaths

Agriculture Victoria urges poultry farmers, backyard chicken and bird owners to report any cases of suspect disease and unexplained bird deaths to the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888**.

Movement of poultry and other birds and control measures

A control area is in place in Strathbogie Shire in the area to the east of the Goulburn Valley Highway.

The control area spans the townships and areas surrounding Euroa, Violet Town, Longwood, Ruffy, Avenel and Strathbogie.

All movements of birds, bird products (including eggs and manure, and equipment) into, within or out of the declared controlled areas are banned unless under a permit. This includes collecting, processing or packaging eggs on premises for the purpose of the eggs being moved and applies to meat and carcasses from poultry and birds.

A housing requirement is in place for the **restricted area only** and applies to premises with more than 50 poultry. While housing is not mandatory in the control area or for people with fewer than 50 birds, all other movement restrictions still apply.

Exemptions are in place that allow vehicles transporting livestock and other agricultural products to travel along the Hume Highway, providing the vehicles do not stop in the restricted or control areas and do not deviate from the Hume Highway.

Information about the current situation including maps of control and restricted areas, applications for permits, housing requirements and surveillance activities can be found at agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza.

Human health and food safety

While cases among humans in direct contact with animals infected with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses are possible, the current risk to the public remains low.

People cannot get infected by eating cooked eggs or cooked chicken meat.

Social media posts from the past week

Share the following posts within your socials and networks:

- 4 confirmed properties with H7 avian influenza [Posted to [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) on 20 Feb 2025]
- Can I eat eggs from a farmers market or roadside stall? [Posted to [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) on 24 Feb 2025]

Industry and community cooperation are crucial to responding to this outbreak of H7 bird flu. Public information efforts are focussed on raising awareness of the situation and measures in place, through a range of communication streams including social media, advertising, flyers, brochures and community engagement.

Thank you to all farmers and poultry owners who are watching their poultry closely and reporting any signs of disease.

If you own backyard poultry or pet birds, there are simple things you can do now, to protect your birds. To find out how visit the [Avian influenza for backyard poultry owners webpage](#).

Need more information? Reach out to the Agriculture Victoria Industry Engagement Officer, contact sboc.industryengagement@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Quick links

- Access current situation and background information on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#)
- To apply for a permit, fill out this [online form](#) (navigate to 'Agriculture Victoria Permits; Avian Influenza')
- [Restricted and control areas](#)
- [Information for truck drivers](#)
- [Information for backyard poultry owners](#)
- [Information for veterinarians](#)
- [Report sick or dead wild birds and wildlife](#)
- [Follow us on Facebook](#)
- [Follow us on X](#)
- View the [latest media releases](#).

For questions relating to the response or to seek further information, contact the **VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226**.

This Industry Avian Influenza Update is sent weekly on Fridays.

Thank you for your continued efforts to support eradication of high pathogenicity avian influenza from Victoria.