

Animal Inspector's Notice

We have been notified that there has been highly pathogenic Avian Influenza detected in Massachusetts. It has been confirmed in wild birds in multiple locations in the state and appears to be prevalent in at least some species of the wild bird population. According to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources this means that all domestic poultry in Massachusetts may be at risk of exposure to the virus, which can be fatal for birds like chickens and turkeys.

The Director of Animal Health Mr. Michael Cahill has issued orders of cancellation or postponement of all competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps or other in-person events encouraging the gathering of commingling of domestic fowl or poultry in Massachusetts until further notice.

If bird owners have any questions about this they can call 617-626-1795.

Prudence Spaulding, the Animal Inspector for the Town of New Marlborough, sent a copy of the original notice last week to all the bird owners listed with her. Bird owners need to be alert to this situation and be careful with their flocks and should a bird appear sick they have in the letter that she sent the telephone number to get help from the state and of course can use the phone number that Mr. Cahill included in his notice. While our town appears to be safe from this virus, things can change and extreme care needs to be practiced.