

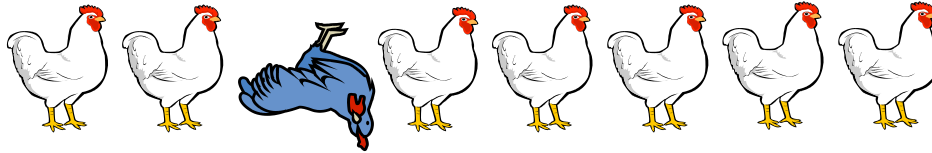


Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab
Washington State Department of Health
September, 2005



Request for Poultry Raisers to Send in Samples

Avian Influenza (“Bird Flu”) is a contagious viral disease that affects all species of birds, including poultry. If a flock becomes infected with the AI virus, it can cause an epidemic in the flock with the loss of most or all birds. To improve our ability to detect this disease early, before an epidemic takes hold, we are asking poultry raisers to submit dead birds for laboratory analysis if you notice any unusual death loss in your flock. *There is no charge to the owner for shipping or for the laboratory testing.*



Clinical signs of AI are generally sudden death or respiratory disease (watery eyes, swollen eyelids, discharge from nostrils). Most of the time, AI is spread from bird to bird and cannot infect humans, but rarely the virus can mutate and become infectious to people. Although this has not yet happened in our area, we ask your help in monitoring for this possibility.

If any birds in your flock die of an unknown cause, please call one of the following people to find out how and what to send in for testing. We can also talk to your regular veterinarian about how to send in dead animals for testing.

Dr. A. Singh Dhillon
Avian Health & Food Safety
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(253) 445-4536
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Dr. Margaret A. Davis
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