

# Industry Avian Influenza Update

Issued: Saturday 15 February 2025 | Edition 1

## Current situation

Two commercial poultry farms in Euroa in northern Victoria have tested positive for high pathogenicity H7N8 avian influenza (bird flu).

- The first farm was confirmed on Saturday 8 February, while the latest property was confirmed on Thursday 13 February.
- CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) has confirmed high pathogenicity H7N8 at both farms.
- This is a new outbreak and is not related to the 2024 outbreaks in Victoria, New South Wales or in the Australian Capital Territory, which were eradicated.
- The strain detected is also different from the H5N1 bird flu strain that is impacting other parts of the world.
- Agriculture Victoria is working to rapidly contain the outbreak and minimise its impact. We will be working closely with impacted farmers and industry groups throughout the response.
- The infected farms have been quarantined under the Livestock Disease Control Act (1994) and activities are underway to eradicate the virus. This work will include humanely destroying all poultry on the infected properties, strict movement controls in the surrounding area, and intensive surveillance to detect whether there has been further spread.
- The humane destruction of poultry on site has been completed for the first affected farm, and the birds have been removed to an approved disposal site.
- Operations have commenced on the new property with bird depopulation underway.
- Surveillance is underway in both the restricted and control areas.

### Report cases of suspect disease and unexplained bird deaths

Agriculture Victoria continues to urge 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**.

## Restricted and control areas

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

A housing requirement is now in place for the restricted area only for producers 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.

The control area is in place the Strathbogie Shire in the area to the east of the Goulburn Valley Highway, and the restricted area is within targeting a rough 5 kilometres around the impacted properties at Euroa.

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

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

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](https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza).

## 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](#).

### 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:

- Planning on selling eggs? [Posted to [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) on 15 Feb 2025]
- Come and say hello at the Euroa Farmers' Market tomorrow. [Posted to [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) on 14 Feb 2025]
- There are now two confirmed properties with H7 avian influenza (bird flu) in the Euroa area. [Posted to [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) on 13 Feb 2025]
- Movement controls are in place for areas surrounding the H7 avian influenza infected property in northern Victoria. [Posted to [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) on 11 Feb 2025]
- A H7 strain of high pathogenicity avian influenza virus has been confirmed at a commercial poultry farm in northern Victoria and restrictions are now in place. [Posted to [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) on 9 Feb 2025]

Industry and community cooperation are crucial to responding 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, information collateral and community engagement.

Thank you to all farmers and poultry owners who are vigilantly monitoring their poultry and reporting.

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

If you need further information or need to reach out to the Agriculture Victoria Industry Engagement Officer at the Incident Management Team please contact [sboc.industryengagement@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:sboc.industryengagement@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

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

This Industry Avian Influenza Update will be sent weekly on Fridays.

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