



News Release

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Cooperative Extension

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Backyard Poultry Small Flock Registration

FAYETTEVILLE – As North Carolina prepares for the possible introduction of highly pathogenic avian influenza, the state is requiring all poultry owners, regardless of the number of birds, to register for an [N.C. Farm ID number](#). Backyard poultry owners will find the form online at ncagr.gov/ncfarmid.

Cumberland County Cooperative Extension wants backyard poultry farmers to know that information gathered through the registration will be used solely for animal health purposes and to aid the state as it prepares for a possible avian flu outbreak. The flock registration will assist the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in alerting poultry owners about an outbreak, especially owners in close proximity to a positive farm.

“In planning our response for highly pathogenic avian influenza, one problem we’ve come across is that we can’t protect birds that we don’t know exist,” said State Veterinarian Doug Meckes. “We need to know where poultry are located so we can properly protect commercial and backyard flocks.”

Avian influenza is spread by migratory birds and has been confirmed in several states, including Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas. In June, Meckes and Secretary of Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced that all bird sales and shows would be suspended from Aug. 15 to Jan. 15 because of the avian flu threat. The intent is to prevent birds from commingling and spreading the avian flu virus.

Agriculture officials say the food supply is safe because the United States has a strong avian influenza surveillance system and the risk to humans is low. No human infections have been detected, and the Centers for Disease Control considers the risk to people from the infections in wild birds, backyard flocks, and commercial poultry to be low.

Visit the N.C. Department of Agriculture’s avian flu webpage at <http://www.ncagr.gov/avianflu/> for more information.

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