Vet Med Cooperative Extension

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Connection

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For questions or comments, please contact Maurice Pitesky
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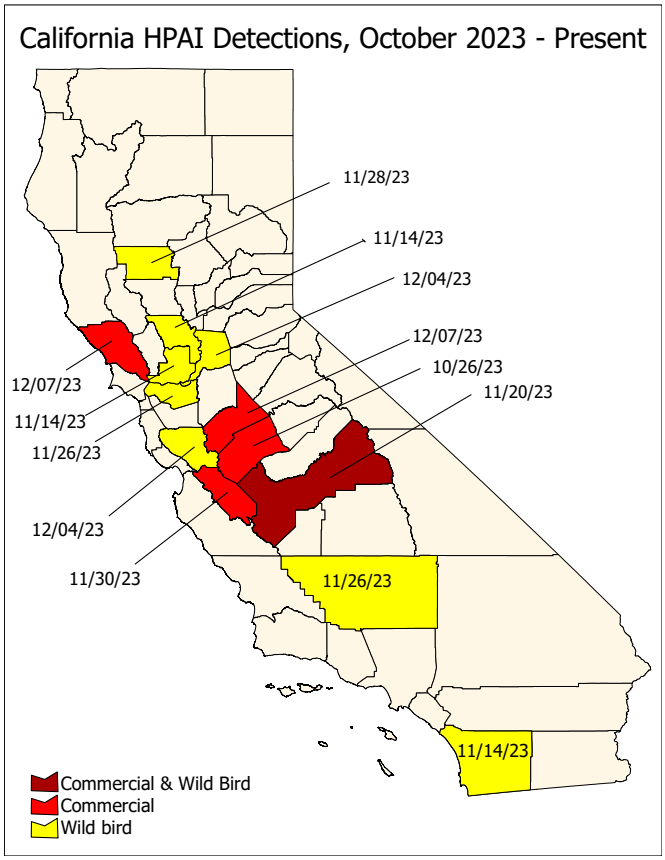
Where in CA is HPAI now?

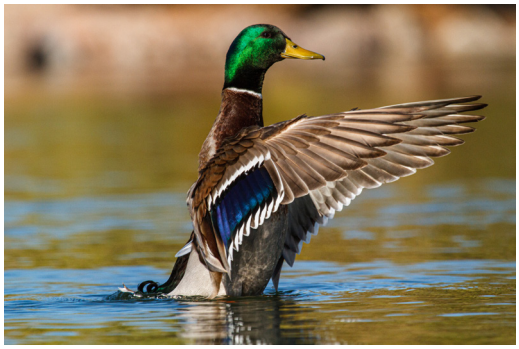
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza back again

Mr. Brock Riggs, MS student in Animal Biology, UC Davis, Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has continued to persist in wild bird populations and effect domestic poultry in the United States across the summer of 2023, and has spiked again going into winter with the arrival of migratory waterfowl. Since the Eurasian strain of HPAI was first detected in the U.S. in 2022, over 72 million commercial and backyard birds have been reported as infected to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA APHIS), along with over 8,200 wild bird detections (and countless numbers of wild birds going undetected). In California alone, there have been wild bird detections in 46 counties, and infected domestic flocks in 19 counties. It has spread to many backyard flocks and commercial facilities within the state since the beginning of August 2022, causing the euthanization of over 1.3 million turkeys, chickens, and domestic ducks.

As migrations again increase as birds return to winter habitats to search for plentiful food sources in wetlands and agricultural fields in more favorable weather, the risk of exposure to poultry flocks heightens. Not only has the virus been observed to be carried by waterfowl, but also by raptors, scavengers, and songbirds across this outbreak. As birds migrate south to their respective wintering habitats, they will travel near and often through properties where poultry are housed, carrying the virus with them and depositing it as they go along. The best way to avoid an outbreak in a facility is heightened biosecurity, and keeping your birds indoors. Deterring wild waterfowl, particularly geese, from feeding in agricultural fields nearby poultry facilities is imperative as these birds will continually be shedding virus as they congregate in large numbers. Wearing a dedicated set of clothes and shoes, along with disposable coveralls and plastic covers is the best way to keep HPAI away from poultry. This continual epidemic has proven itself to be much worse than in years past, and will likely continue its spike in the coming months as migratory numbers grow into spring. By enforcing the best biosecurity you can, your birds can stay protected from HPAI.





Searching for Study Participants

The Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine is looking for study participants. Our study focuses on the development and evaluation of a new mobile app for backyard chicken owners and game fowl breeders. The goal is to examine the app's effectiveness as an extension and communication tool within the poultry community.

Eligibility: Participants in our research study must be backyard chicken owners of 13 years of age or older and/or game fowl breeders of 18 years of age or older.

Here's what you can expect in the App:

- Engaging Education Modules: Access to comprehensive training materials covering various aspects of chicken husbandry.
- Surveys & Feedback: We value your thoughts and experiences! Your valuable input will help shape future advancements in poultry extension.

Study Timeline: The main study will span over 2 weeks, providing ample time for you to immerse yourself in the educational modules, complete surveys, and witness your expertise grow. A 3-month follow-up survey will be administered to track progress.

Compensation: Participants in the study will be compensated commensurate with their level of participation, ensuring fair remuneration for their time, effort, and contribution to the research endeavor. Participants who complete the entire study will receive a $25 digital Amazon gift card via email. Those who do not finish the entire study will be compensated based on their level of participation.

Dr. Maurice Pitesky and his lab staff appreciate your consideration. Should you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact Maurice Pitesky at drcluck@ucdavis.edu.
To ensure you receive notifications and stay informed about the study's launch, please complete this pre-registration form if you're interested in participating. Once the study is ready to commence, you'll be notified via email. Your pre-registration will be immensely valuable in facilitating the setup of this study.

Please complete the pre-registration form now and share it with your friends!
The survey link is: https://ucdavis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_baBlvgrWkLwgZ7g

We sincerely appreciate your interest in participating and look forward to your involvement.

Celebrating Latino Farmers

Latino Famer Conference 2023

Ms. Myrna Cadena, PhD Candidate, UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab

The 9th Annual Latino Farmer Conference took place in Stockton, California, on the symbolic Day of the Dead. This distinctive conference, conducted entirely in Spanish, served as a valuable platform for networking among farmers, conservation experts, local businesses, and agricultural organizations.

The UC Davis Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) team contributed by delivering two tailored presentations for poultry farmers. Ann Baier, representing the National Center for Appropriate Technology, presented 'Poultry Processing,' focusing on four legal pathways compliant with USDA and state regulations. Myrna Cadena from Dr. Maurice Pitesky's Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab presented 'Biosecurity for Small-Scale Poultry Farmers' and offered guidance on accessing vital resources such as the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratories.

Beyond being a forum for insightful presentations, the conference uniquely addressed the needs and experiences of the Latino farming community in California.

For more updates and event information, interested individuals can check out:
National Center for Appropriate Technology's website at https://www.ncat.org/ and the
UC Cooperative Extension Poultry Lab's website at https://ucanr.edu/sites/poultry/.

Welcome Dr. Pena Levano

New Cooperative Extension Professor

Please join the department in welcoming new Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension in Dairy and Cattle Production, Health and Management Economics Dr. Peña-Lévano!

Dr. Peña-Lévano received his BS (2009) from Zamorano University, Honduras and obtained his MS (2012) at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. He then completed a PhD (2017) at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

In 2021, he joined the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls as Assistant Professor and in 2022 became a Dairy Innovation Hub Faculty Affiliate at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

His research is focused on dairy economics, financial management, agribusiness, mathematical optimization, agriculture and environmental policy. He also currently serves as the Chair of the International Section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA).

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Maurice Pitesky, editor in chief

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