



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade
and Consumer Protection
Division of Animal Health



AVIAN INFLUENZA INFORMATION SHEET

Poultry Depopulation and Disposal

FAST FACTS:

- DATCP has consulted with federal partners and experts from across the country to establish proper depopulation and disposal protocols that meet high standards for disease management, public health and safety, and environmental responsibility.
- The most effective method for controlling the avian influenza virus is to euthanize, or depopulate, infected flocks quickly.
- Depopulation methods and timeframes depend on facility construction and type of bird.
- Composting is the most efficient and environmentally responsible method of disposal for the bird carcasses.
- Compost piles must rise to temperatures that ensure the virus is inactivated. The piles are monitored daily with thermometers to ensure temperature levels are consistently maintained.
- Outdoor compost piles are constructed in a manner that includes a thick cover of compost carbon, such as wood chips, on top to eliminate the possibility of wild birds landing on the pile and carrying virus to new locations.
- Compost piles are inspected by regulatory staff for any evidence of leakage, odor, disruption, and evidence of pests. If any of these are identified, they will be reported and addressed immediately.

If you find a sick or dead bird, don't touch it, report it.

Domestic birds:

Wisconsin DATCP—Division of Animal Health

1-800-572-8981

Wild birds:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

1-800-433-1610

