

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

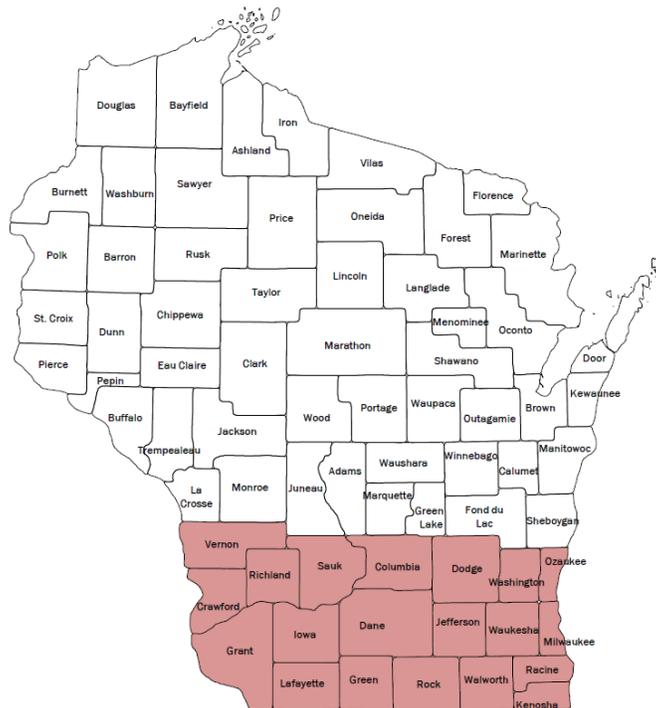
**IN THE MATTER REGARDING THE
PROTECTION OF BIRD HEALTH:
DOMESTIC BIRD OWNERS.**

AH Docket No. 26-O-003

**SUMMARY SPECIAL ORDER BANNING
DOMESTIC BIRD MOVEMENT TO, OR
PARTICIPATION IN, ANY SHOWS,
EXHIBITIONS, SWAP MEETS, OR OTHER
EVENTS IN SPECIFIED COUNTIES IN
SOUTHERN WISCONSIN WHERE LIVE
DOMESTIC BIRDS ARE BROUGHT
TOGETHER AND THEN DISPERSE.**

INTRODUCTION

The State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (Department), by the State Veterinarian, based upon its efforts to protect Wisconsin's domestic bird industry from the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus, a deadly, communicable virus among domestic birds, makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law and issues the following Summary Special Order to domestic bird owners, prohibiting movement of birds to shows, exhibitions, swap meets, or other events in the following counties in southern Wisconsin: Vernon County, Crawford County, Richland County, Sauk County, Columbia County, Dodge County, Washington County, Ozaukee County, Grant County, Iowa County, Dane County, Jefferson County, Waukesha County, Milwaukee County, Lafayette County, Green County, Rock County, Walworth County, Racine County, and Kenosha County, where live domestic birds are brought together and then disperse. The map below shows the affected counties shaded in red.



FINDINGS OF FACT

(1) The Department is responsible for administering Wisconsin's animal health program under ch. 95, Wis. Stats. The program is designed to protect the health of animals in this state and to prevent, control, and eradicate communicable diseases among animals. The Department has broad authority to adopt rules interpreting statutes under its jurisdiction (see § 93.07(1), Wis. Stats.).

(2) To protect the health of animals located in this state and of humans residing in this state, the Department may establish, maintain, enforce, and regulate quarantines and other measures relating to the importation, movement, and care of animals and their products, the disinfection of suspected localities and articles, and the disposition of animals, as the Department determines are necessary (see § 93.07(10), Wis. Stats.).

(3) The Department may prohibit or regulate the importing of animals into this state or the movement of animals within the state if the Department has reasonable grounds to believe that regulation or prohibition is necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of a disease in this state that threatens the health of animals or of humans (see § 95.20, Wis. Stats.).

(4) The Department may issue an emergency quarantine order that will affect a particular geographical location, county, counties or the entire state in the event of a national, state, or regional animal disease outbreak. An emergency quarantine order shall become effective upon the Department issuing a news release to media outlets in all affected areas (see § ATCP 10.89(2)(b), Wis. Admin. Code).

(5) Domestic birds means any avian species held in captivity, including poultry, ratites, farm-raised gamebirds that have not been released to the wild, and pet birds (see § 95.001(1)(ad), Wis. Stats. and § ATCP 10.02, Wis. Admin. Code).

(6) Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is an extremely infectious and fatal disease that, once established, can spread rapidly from flock to flock.

(7) There is no known treatment that cures the HPAI virus.

(8) While the strain of HPAI found is highly contagious among domestic birds, there are minimal risks to human health from domestic birds or domestic bird products at this time.

(9) Transmission can be minimized by limiting the movement and commingling of domestic birds and domestic bird products (including but not limited to eggs, meat, feathers, and manure) between premises, and by using proper biosecurity methods, including washing trucks and trailers between loads, washing and disinfecting boots and clothing, and establishing a line of separation between clean and dirty areas.

(10) Often, domestic birds at shows, exhibitions, swap meets, and other events are commingled with other birds. These domestic birds may be exposed to the HPAI virus, return home, and possibly expose additional domestic birds to the disease.

(11) On February 26, 2026, HPAI was confirmed at a commercial poultry domestic bird flock in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. The HPAI surveillance zone around the affected premises include Jefferson County, Waukesha County, Walworth County, and Rock County.

(12) On February 27, 2026, HPAI was confirmed at a backyard poultry domestic bird flock in Dane County, Wisconsin.

(13) On March 4, 2026, HPAI was confirmed at a commercial poultry domestic bird flock in Walworth County. The HPAI surveillance zone around the affected premises include Jefferson County, Waukesha County, Walworth County, and Rock County.

(14) On March 4, 2026, HPAI was confirmed at a commercial poultry domestic bird flock in Jefferson County. The HPAI surveillance zone around the affected premises include Jefferson County, Waukesha County, Walworth County, and Rock County.

(15) Since February 2026, HPAI has been confirmed in other Midwestern states, including Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and South Dakota.

(16) Due to the risk of exposure to HPAI and the risk of spreading HPAI, domestic bird owners must not participate in any shows, exhibitions, swap meets, or other events in the following counties in southern Wisconsin: Vernon County, Crawford County, Richland County, Sauk County, Columbia County, Dodge County, Washington County, Ozaukee County, Grant County, Iowa County, Dane County, Jefferson County, Waukesha County, Milwaukee County, Lafayette County, Green County, Rock County, Walworth County, Racine County, and Kenosha County, where live domestic birds are brought together and then disperse.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

(1) Under chs. 93 and 95, Wis. Stats., the Department has jurisdiction over the protection of the health of animals in this state and the authority to prevent, control, and eradicate communicable diseases among animals through quarantines and other measures. The Department is authorized to take this action to protect domestic bird health in Wisconsin.

(2) HPAI is a communicable disease that is extremely infectious and fatal, and, once established, could spread rapidly from flock to flock.

(3) Movement and commingling of live domestic birds and domestic bird products increases the chances of exposure to HPAI. Limiting the movement and commingling of live domestic birds and bird products will prevent and control the spread of the HPAI virus.

(4) Regulating and prohibiting the movement of live domestic birds to or participation in, any shows, exhibitions, swap meets, and other events, where live domestic birds are brought together and then disperse, is necessary to prevent the spread of the HPAI virus that threatens the health of domestic birds in Wisconsin.

ORDER

Based upon the above stated findings of fact and conclusions of law, and, in accordance with §§ 93.07(10) and 95.20, Wis. Stats., IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

(1) All persons are prohibited from moving live domestic birds to, or participation in, any shows, exhibitions, swap meets, and other events in the following counties in southern Wisconsin: Vernon County, Crawford County, Richland County, Sauk County, Columbia County, Dodge County, Washington County, Ozaukee County, Grant County, Iowa County, Dane County, Jefferson County, Waukesha County, Milwaukee County, Lafayette County, Green County, Rock County, Walworth County, Racine County, and Kenosha County, where live domestic birds are brought together and then disperse.

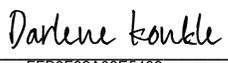
(2) This order will remain in effect until 60 days after signature, unless rescinded earlier by order of the State Veterinarian.

(3) This order may be appealed in writing within 30 days of the date of the order to be reviewed by following the procedures to request an informal hearing or a contested case hearing in Wis. Stat. § 227.42, and Wis. Admin. Code §§ ATCP 1.03(3) and 1.06, and HA 1.04(3).

3/11/2026 | 3:01 PM CDT

Dated this ____ day of March, 2026

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Signed by:
By: 
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Darlene Konkle, DVM, MS, DACVIM
State Veterinarian