



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Animal Protein North America

Poultry, Eggs

Thank you for requesting information regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) for Cargill poultry and egg products. Cargill places an extremely high importance on ensuring food safety and quality for our customers. Cargill is an active participant in a joint commitment with customers to deliver the highest level of food safety and quality in our products.

HPAI, also called “bird flu”, is an infectious disease of birds and poultry caused by type A strains of the influenza virus. HPAI continues to be an animal health issue and not an issue with food safety. Both the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) note that consumers can be confident in the safety of eggs and poultry meat. USDA has concluded that pasteurization or cooking is effective in destroying the avian influenza virus, if present.

The likelihood of eggs or meat from an infected flock entering the food chain is extremely low due to safeguards in place, which include testing of flocks and federal inspection programs. Cargill’s poultry and egg product supply chains are subject to rigorous Cargill and government oversight programs to detect and minimize any risks of avian influenza. In the U.S, Cargill is a registered participant in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and is testing birds for HPAI according to this plan. In Canada, the Canadian Government uses two different bird surveillance programs to detect avian influenza viruses posing threats to domestic birds. The first program targets wild birds; the second one focuses on domestic flocks. Please see the below links for more information for United States and Canadian government oversight. Finally, Cargill and its producer employ many biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of HPAI.

The U.S. Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that bird flu is a low risk to the public and FDA and USDA note that fully cooked and properly handled eggs and meat are safe to eat.

Links:

USDA: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/avian-influenza-food-safety-qa.pdf>

FDA: <https://www.fda.gov/food/egg-guidance-regulation-and-other-information/questions-and-answers-regarding-safety-eggs-during-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-outbreaks>



CFIA - Overview of Avian Influenza Prevention, Preparedness and Response:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/avian-influenza/eng/1323990856863/1323991018946>

Claims: *The labeling, substantiation and decision making of all claims for your products is your responsibility. We recommend you consult regulatory and legal advisors familiar with all applicable laws, rules and regulations prior to making labeling and claims decisions for your products.*

Contact

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<https://www.cargill.com/meat-poultry/feed-safety>

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