

June 8, 2015

TO: 2015 Goose Round Up Applicants in Oakland and Macomb Counties

FROM: Russ Mason, Chief, Wildlife Division

SUBJECT: High Pathogenic Avian Influenza found in free-ranging geese in Michigan and impacts to Resident Canada Goose Program (goose round up suspended in Macomb and Oakland Counties)

The Michigan departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) today announced the state's first confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N2 in the state. The disease was found in free-ranging Canada geese in Macomb County. Avian influenza is a virus that can infect both free-ranging and domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, quail and geese. Although the disease presents little risk to humans, it represents the most serious threat to domestic poultry production in decades.

To date, no Michigan flocks have been affected, in part because of measures recently instituted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. In order to manage the risks now posed by the presence of H5N2 in Canada geese, the Department of Natural Resources is taking the a number of steps, including the following:

- Create an HPAI Core Area, a 10-mile radius around the confirmed positive cases, and euthanize all geese rounded up within the Core Area.
- **Create an HPAI Management Zone, including any counties that touch the HPAI Core Area. In this case, the HPAI Management Zone includes Macomb and Oakland counties.**
- **Cancel all goose relocations within the HPAI Management Zone outside of the HPAI Core Area. Because your site is located within the HPAI Management Zone, goose round up and translocation is prohibited in 2015. We apologize for this inconvenience. Canada goose contractors have been notified of this change. The DNR will be processing refunds for your 2015 Round Up (Capture) and Hold Canada Geese Permit Applications.**
- Heighten HPAI surveillance in the two-county AI Management Zone.
- Continue statewide AI surveillance, which includes responding to suspicious dead animals, conduct sample testing of geese being relocated, banding ducks and geese, and testing hunter-harvested waterfowl.

With this type of HPAI, sick birds may experience neurological signs and abnormal behavior (e.g., difficulty walking), as well as nasal discharge, sneezing, or coughing. If you notice geese or other waterfowl exhibiting these symptoms or find three or more wild birds dead, report it to the DNR at [517-336-5030](tel:517-336-5030).

Read today's press release at [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10371\\_10402-356642--00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10371_10402-356642--00.html). For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/avianinfluenza](http://www.michigan.gov/avianinfluenza) or [www.michigan.gov/aviandiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/aviandiseases). If you have questions regarding the Resident Canada Goose Program, please contact Barbara Avers, Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist, at [517-641-4903](tel:517-641-4903) ext. 247.