

What is ODA doing about AI?

ODA is managing a comprehensive Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan for domestic birds that has been in place since 2004. The program involves

- Meeting with commercial poultry producers to update and improve the ability to respond appropriately to Avian Influenza in all management systems.
- Developing and distributing AI information for backyard flock owners.
- AI testing of apparently healthy domestic birds from flocks across the state.
- AI testing of all birds and poultry submitted for examination at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

Is anyone looking in the wild bird populations?

Wild waterfowl are the natural host for the avian influenza virus. Since 1998, more than 12,000 migratory birds and waterfowl have been tested in Alaska, and it is not unexpected to detect some avian influenza strains. All tests, however, have been negative for H5N1.

This year, more wild birds are being tested along their migratory paths--called flyways. Oregon is on the Pacific Flyway, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2006 will collect several thousand samples from targeted species, selected due to their potential risk for carrying avian influenza. Collectively in the U.S., more than 100,000 wild birds will be sampled.