

Caution urged because of avian bird influenza

Nevada Department of Agriculture officials are recommending bird owners in Nevada adopt extra healthy hygiene practices after avian bird influenza was found in Oregon and Washington.

While health risks to humans are low, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is warning people to avoid contact with sick or dead poultry or wildlife.

Nevada State Veterinarian Michael Greenlee said the highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza virus has been found in birds in various parts of the world but has not been shown to cause any human infection.

If contact occurs, wash hands with soap and water, and change clothing before having any contact with healthy domestic poultry and birds.

Poultry and poultry products, including wild game birds, are safe to eat as long as proper handling and cooking guidelines are followed, Greenlee said.

Call USDA at 866.536.7593 if there is concern about sick or dying birds.