



Municipalité de | Municipality of

Pontiac

NEWS OF THE DAY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 – 10:30 a.m.

Avian influenza: vigilance maintained

What you should know:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources asks for your vigilance and cooperation in optimizing surveillance and prevention measures for avian influenza, which poses a significant threat to the health of farmed poultry.

- **Wild birds**

As a citizen, you can report the presence of dead or dying wild birds by contacting the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) at 1 877 346-6763.

Depending on certain criteria, specimens may be recovered for analysis by wildlife officers. However, if you are in an area where there are many reported deaths of wild birds, you can safely dispose of the carcasses.

Follow the protocol to [safely dispose of a dead wild bird carcass](#), available on Quebec.ca.

- **Prevention and biosecurity for farmed poultry**

As a backyard or small bird farm owner, you should know that the risk of your birds contracting the avian influenza virus is **currently high**.

Prevention and biosecurity measures must be rigorously applied at all times and the level of vigilance must remain high.

The requirements of the [Captive Bird Sanitation Regulations](#) must be met to avoid contact with wild birds:

- Domestic birds must be kept in a building or fenced area to prevent them from getting out of it freely.
- Your birds' feeders and drinking troughs must be protected: no migratory birds should be able to access them or contaminate them.
- Surface water should not be used for watering birds or for cleaning equipment and buildings.
- It is prohibited to keep domestic birds and migratory palmipeds at the same address.

The Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) also recommends that owners of farmed birds :

- Avoid all direct or indirect contact with wild birds by confining farmed birds in a closed building, when possible, otherwise in a roofed enclosure (e.g.: netting).
- Avoid attracting wild birds through the presence of food, water, or water accumulation on the ground near the enclosure.
- To clean and disinfect any vehicle or equipment before each entry or exit of the breeding place.
- Limit access to the farm to authorized persons only and ensure that these persons respect the biosecurity measures in effect (keep a log of visitors, if possible).
- Avoid any contact between backyard and commercial farms (e.g., sharing of personnel).

Watch for these clinical signs in your birds:

- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decrease egg production and laying of many soft-shelled or unshelled eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, crest, wattles and shanks
- Coughing, sneezing and nervous signs
- Diarrhea
- Lack of coordination
- Sudden death

If there are unusual deaths or signs of the disease, consult a veterinarian. If you are unable to reach a veterinarian, call **450-768-6763** to contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Sick Bird Hotline or **11 844 ANIMAUX** to contact the MAPAQ's Reporting Centre.

Where to inquire :

- Municipality of Pontiac's Website: www.municipalitepontiac.com;
- Municipality of Pontiac's Facebook account: www.facebook.com/pontiacmun
- Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources' Website [Grippe aviaire | Gouvernement du Québec \(quebec.ca\)](http://Grippe_aviaire_|Gouvernement_du_Quebec_(quebec.ca))