

H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza and feral pigs

Feral pig management and H5 bird flu: practical steps to reduce risk

Numerous seabirds and other wildlife have been confirmed with H5 high pathogenicity avian influenza (H5 bird flu) across Australia. This is the serious H5 bird flu strain that has been circulating globally.

With this confirmation, we have put together some simple, practical messages for land managers and vertebrate pest management contractors to provide guidance on what to look out for when undertaking feral pig management activities on private or public land.

The current risk of bird flu to people in Australia is low. Bird flu mainly spreads to people from infected birds.

Sick or dead birds

- Avoid contact with sick or dead birds or animals, record what you see and report sick or dead birds or animals to the Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Hotline on 1800 675 888.
- Avoid handling or moving sick or dead birds with bare hands as this may spread the virus.

General biosecurity measures to reduce risks associated with H5 bird flu

- Review influenza vaccination status and strongly encourage all personnel entering and working on any property to be up to date with recommended influenza vaccination.
- Obtain required permissions from the property's owner and manager for entry to undertake feral pig management activities.
- Maintain all biosecurity provisions in accordance with the property's biosecurity management plan.
- Specify to the property owner/manager which parts of the property(s) need to be accessed and why.
- Ensure all equipment, tools, boots and vehicles are clean and have been disinfected before entering and

leaving the property to meet conditions of the property's biosecurity plan.

- Ensure hand-washing / basic hygiene before, after and during field operations. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if hand washing is not an immediate option.

Feral pig management

- Consider whether work areas are at high risk of wild bird incursion (with a focus on waterbirds in the first instance). Be extra vigilant in high risk locations.
- To the extent possible, exclude wild birds from feed stations, where feeding is part of your baiting or trapping program.
- Ensure all feral pig carcasses are disposed of in accordance with legislative requirements and the property's biosecurity plan.
- To the extent possible, ensure that feral pigs do not have direct or indirect contact with domestic poultry and livestock.
- For private landholders, ensure all site entries are recorded.
- Hunting dogs may be at risk of exposure when used in feral pig control. Do not let dogs come into contact with sick or dead birds or animals.

For more information:

- [Bird flu \(avian influenza\) - DAFF](#)
- [Resources for bird flu - DAFF](#)
- [Bird flu \(avian influenza\) - Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [H5 Bird Flu – Wildlife Health Australia](#)

We all need to work together to aid early detection and to manage risk.

The rapid risk assessment of avian influenza to the Australian pork industry is available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) website, [here](#).



Photo credit: Nic Perkins

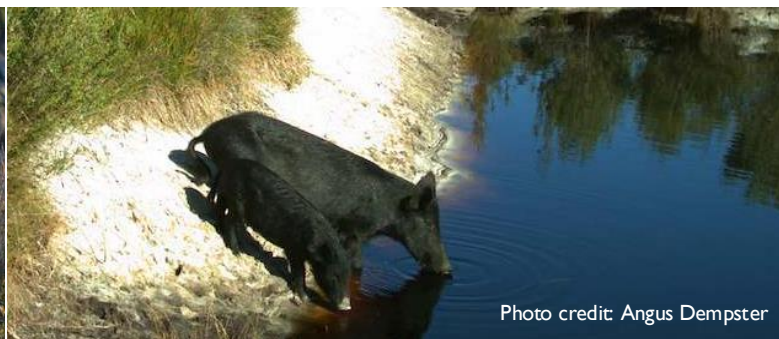


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