

Fenceline
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I was charged with cooking up an Irish feast for our board meeting. The closest I have ever come to Irish food, is the annual shamrock shake at the Golden Arches. It's been an adventure that's for sure. The proof is in the puddin, we'll see what they think.

Speaking of Puddin that seems to be the nickname of the month for my youngest son. He's three months on the job, and each month he's had a different nickname. What is it about men and their nicknames for each other?

K-State Research and Extension poultry specialist Scott Beyer is urging owners of small avian flocks in the Basehor, Kansas area to contact the Kansas Department of Agriculture to let them know about their flocks. We may be contacting poultry owners in Jefferson county as well.

The KDA is asking the owners of small flocks to help with possible testing surveillance for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) near Basehor in Leavenworth County, Kansas. Owners of waterfowl, guineas, chickens, turkeys, and other outdoor birds have been asked to self-report by calling 844-255-7794 or email at HPAI@kda.ks.gov. The zone of testing is about seven miles from the center of Basehor. A map of the affected area is located on the KDA website.

In addition, the KDA on March 16 said it had established quarantine zones in parts of Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties.

The actions come after the KDA confirmed March 13 that a small flock of chickens and ducks in Leavenworth County tested positive for the highly contagious HPAI H5N2 virus. Avian influenza is a contagious, rapidly spreading viral disease that affects birds. Outbreaks of a strain of avian influenza have also been found in Minnesota, Missouri and Arkansas in the central U.S., and in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The early evidence suggests that migrating waterfowl in the area have exposed local poultry as the birds are moving north, Beyer said. This type of influenza has not shown to be harmful to humans, but it is very harmful to poultry. Producers should practice good biosecurity and be particularly wary of waterfowl near small flocks.

"Do not allow your birds to co-mingle," Beyer said. "Remove sources of feed that attract wild birds. Move your birds away from ponds and rest areas where waterfowl may be located."

If hunting, do not allow hunting dogs to co-mingle with backyard flocks unless they are decontaminated. Hunters should also clean and sanitize vehicles. Harvest byproducts should be disposed of properly so that scavenging birds do not consume them. Check the KDA web page for more information about the quarantine zones and other updates.