

Exploring poultry vaccination in Canada to combat bird flu

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is exploring vaccination as an additional tool to help manage highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), otherwise known as bird flu, and reduce its impacts.

At a glance

A confined field trial will test HPAI vaccination on two participating commercial poultry farms in Manitoba between 2026 and 2028.



These vaccines meet Canada's requirements for safety, quality and effectiveness.

Food products from vaccinated animals are safe for consumers.

The field trial **IS**

- for evidence gathering
- carefully monitored
- to help inform potential program planning

The field trial **IS NOT**

- a decision to use HPAI vaccines in Canada
- a replacement for biosecurity measures
- a national HPAI vaccination program
- a change to current HPAI disease control measures such as depopulation

Why now

HPAI continues to circulate in wild birds

- HPAI is an ongoing risk to poultry and other animals
- This virus has also affected many mammals including pets and countless wild animals **globally**

Fact:



HPAI has impacted **over 17 million domestic poultry birds in Canada** since December 2021



Did you know?

The **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)** supports HPAI vaccination as a disease management strategy.

What is being studied in Canada:

- Vaccine effectiveness and immune response
- How vaccines would be delivered in a commercial poultry setting

In other countries:

- France: HPAI vaccination has been successfully implemented in the duck sector
- Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom: HPAI vaccine trials are underway

How a vaccination trial works



Strict biosecurity on participating farms



Poultry are vaccinated and monitored



Regular testing



Laboratory studies to assess vaccine protection

Strong biosecurity remains the best defence against HPAI

Learn more about HPAI vaccination: Canada.ca/avian-flu

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