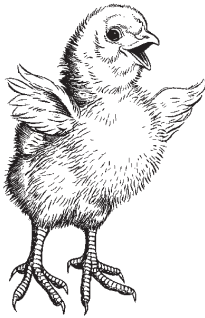




information, contact your nearest State or Private Veterinarian. All unusual deaths in chickens and bird flocks should be reported to your nearest State Veterinarian.



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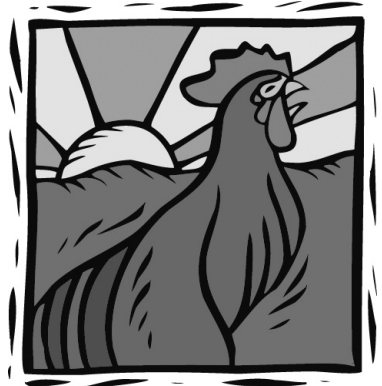


Avian influenza

("bird flu")



ENGLISH



agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA?

Avian influenza is an infectious disease of birds. The disease affects chickens, turkeys, ostriches and birds. Waterfowl may carry the virus without showing signs of the disease. A particularly deadly strain of avian influenza has spread over the last few years from the Far East. Unfortunately, the disease has reached Europe and the northern region of Africa. Southern Africa remains unaffected.



WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF BIRD FLU?

The disease may cause a large number (up to 100 %) of sudden deaths in a flock. Ruffled feathers, depression, loss of appetite and fever may be seen. These signs may be confused with other poultry diseases, for example Newcastle disease that frequently occurs in South Africa.



CAN HUMANS BECOME INFECTED?

The disease has caused a number of human deaths, however, deaths only occurred among people who had very close contact with sick birds.



No human-to-human spread of the infection has been proven yet. Cooked chicken and eggs are safe to eat.

HOW CAN WE CONTROL THE DISEASE?

South Africa is currently recognised internationally as free from the deadly strain of avian influenza. We should, however, remain vigilant. The disease could be carried and spread by migratory birds and the movement of poultry. South Africa therefore has strict import control measures in place and ostriches, chickens and wild birds are tested regularly throughout the country.

If you are concerned about avian influenza or require further

