

Working Group Leads Montana's Avian Influenza Early Detection Effort

The State of Montana is participating with several federal agencies in the national effort to provide an early warning system for the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in wild birds in North America.

Montana's participation in the national early detection effort will supply monitoring data used to create a national database to track all avian influenza information collected from wild birds and domestic poultry in the United States.

State and federal agencies recently formed a working group to coordinate participation in this effort. The working group includes:

- **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks - 406-994-6357; www.fwp.mt.gov**
- **Montana Department of Livestock - 406-444-2043; www.mt.gov/liv/**
- **Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services - 406-444-5622; www.pandemicflu.mt.gov**
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture/Wildlife Services - 406-657-6464; <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/>**
- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - 406-994-5789; www.fws.gov**

Scientists will use the data collected in this effort to determine if the virulent strain of avian influenza found in Asia, which is known as H5N1, has made its way to North America.

[For More Information on Avian Influenza visit these websites:](#)

- **U.S Department of Health & Human Services; www.pandemicflue.gov**
- **U.S. Geological Services; www.nwhc.usgs.gov**
- **Centers for Disease Control; www.cdc.gov**

