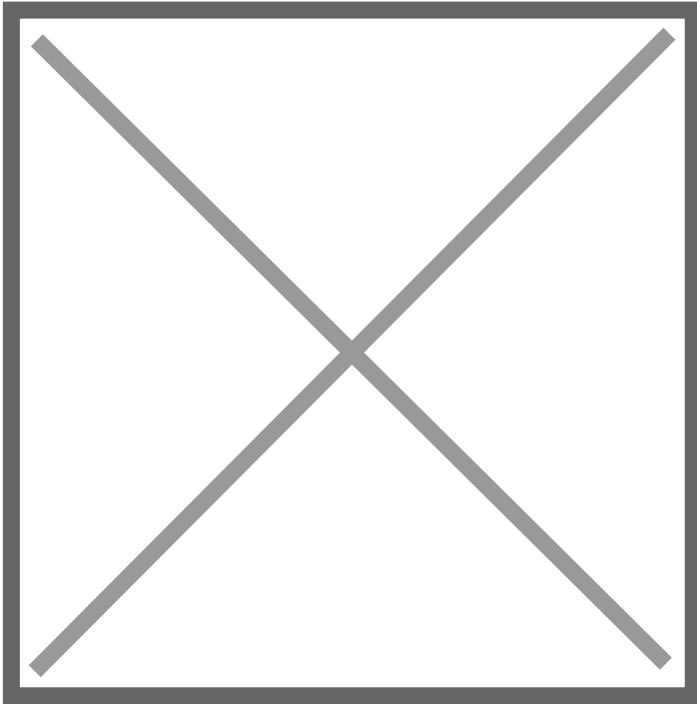


Avian Flu hits two cities in Israel

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Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development located two new flashpoints of H5N1 bird flu disease. at Kibbutz Magal, in the Mehashe Regional Council, approximately 25,000 fattening turkeys were located in three buildings and at Moshav Beer Tuvia, another flashpoint was identified with another 25,000 heavy breeding chickens in three buildings. The Ministry of Agriculture imposed a closure on all poultry coops within 10 km.

✕ In order to prevent the spread of the disease, the Ministry of Agriculture operates in accordance with the regular work procedures related to the handling of bird flu. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture has informed the Ministry of Health and the Nature and Parks Authority on the subject and is in contact with them regarding increased vigilance regarding the transmission of the disease through wild birds.

The Ministry of Agriculture reiterates that it is possible to continue to consume poultry and eggs but care must be taken to purchase eggs only at organised sales and marketing outlets. The eggs must be packed in cardboard or plastic and be

marked on all sides. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture emphasizes that eggs and poultry should only be consumed after they have been well cooked/baked/fried.

Also, the Ministry of Agriculture calls on the breeders of ornamental birds and backyard poultry as well as free-range chickens, to keep the birds inside buildings and to prevent them from roaming about in the open, thereby reducing the risk of infection from wild birds.

It should be noted that the Ministry of Agriculture has concluded the handling of the previous bird flu outbreaks that were discovered last month on Moshav Shluchot, Moshav Beit Heirut, Moshav Beit Halevy, Moshav Kfar Monash, Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon, Kibbutz Hatzor and Kibbutz Ein Tzurim.