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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Confirmed in Stoddard County Poultry Flock

MARCH 04TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Confirmed in Stoddard County Poultry Flock

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Confirmed in Missouri Commercial Poultry Flock

Virus found in Stoddard County commercial flock.

Stoddard County, MO - Federal officials have confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza in a commercial chicken flock in Stoddard County, Missouri. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic influenza (HPAI) in the commercial broiler chicken flock.

Samples were delivered to the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Missouri for testing after a sudden increase in mortality in the flock. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Des Moines, Iowa, confirmed the positive results.

HPAI is known to be deadly for domesticated poultry. Missouri Department of Agriculture veterinary officials have quarantined the affected premises, and birds on the property will not enter the food system.

"The Missouri Department of Agriculture is working closely with federal animal health officials to contain and eliminate the disease," Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn said. "Protecting the health and welfare of livestock and poultry is a top priority. We encourage

both commercial and backyard poultry producers to tighten their biosecurity protocols to help stop the spread of the virus.”

Poultry producers should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds, and report sick birds or an unusual increase in death loss to a local veterinarian or the state veterinarian’s office at the Missouri Department of Agriculture at (573) 751-3377.

MDA Animal Health Division employees are working with federal partners on additional surveillance and testing in the areas around the affected flock.

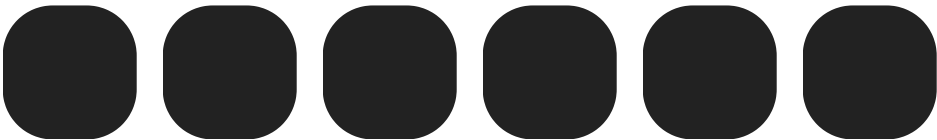
“Avian influenza does not present a food safety risk,” Director Chinn continued. “Poultry and eggs are safe to eat when handled and cooked properly.”

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the recent HPAI detections do not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States.

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Sparklight® Offers Residential Customers Free Calls to Ukraine

MARCH 03RD 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Sparklight® Offers Residential Customers Free Calls to Ukraine

Sparklight®, a member of the Cable One family of brands, today announced it will offer its residential phone customers free, unlimited international calls to Ukraine from February 25, 2022 through March 12, 2022 in response to the current events in this region.

“During this time of unrest, we want to ensure our customers stay connected with what matters most – their loved ones in Ukraine,” said Julie Laulis, Cable One President and CEO.

Customers must visit **www.sparklight.com/Ukraine** and submit account information in order to have calls to Ukraine credited.

About Sparklight

Sparklight® is a leading broadband communications provider and part of the Cable One family of brands, which serves more than 1.1 million residential and business customers in 24 states. Sparklight provides consumers with a wide array of connectivity and entertainment services, including high-speed internet and advanced Wi-Fi solutions, cable television and phone service. Sparklight Business provides scalable and cost-effective products for businesses ranging in size from small to mid-market, in addition to enterprise, wholesale and carrier customers.

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SB I-55, Route 61 Reduced at Center Junction for Repairs

FEBRUARY 28TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

SB I-55, Route 61 Reduced at Center Junction for Repairs

SB I-55, Route 61 Reduced at Center Junction for Repairs

Mile Marker 99

Contractor crews will soon begin repairs to the southbound Interstate 55 bridge at mile marker 99 between Cape Girardeau and Jackson, Missouri. Damage was caused during a traffic incident involving a tractor-trailer truck.

Both the bridge and safety barrier were inspected and are structurally sound. Repairs will be made to the concrete.

Contractor crews will be in the area today (Monday, Feb. 28) to remove any loose material. Icy conditions had previously prevented the contractor from getting equipment on the bridge.

Weather permitting, the repair work will begin Wednesday, March 2 at 8:30 a.m., following morning rush-hour traffic. As work is underway, the southbound I-55 bridge

will be reduced to one lane. The lane reduction will be in place 24 hours a day until repairs are completed.

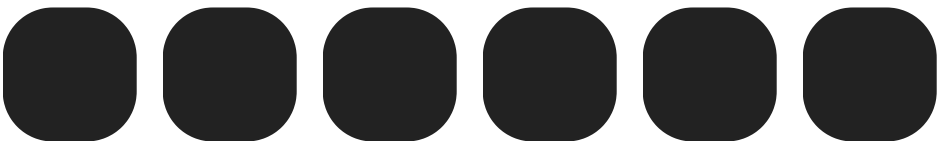
In addition, the right eastbound lane of Route 61 will be closed beneath the bridge. The lane reduction on Route 61 will only be in place as work is underway overhead.

Completion is anticipated by Monday, March 7, weather permitting.

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Stoddard County Commission Meeting - February 14,

Stoddard County Commission Meeting - February 14, 2022

Stoddard County Collector Josh Speakman announced Monday, February 14, 2022, that his office will handle tax collection for the city of Essex beginning March 1, 2022.

The Stoddard County Commission voted 3-0 to collect all personal and real estate taxes for Essex residents beginning March 1st.

Speakman said in a press release, "It will allow for the city of Essex to spend less time, labor and revenue on tax collection, all the while making it a one-stop shop for taxpayers, saving the city tax revenue. The County will not be out any revenue for the extra line item on the tax bill for the city of Essex residents. They will no pay online, in person or by mail to the Stoddard County Collector's office."

City taxes will be now be included with the county's tax bill, which will be sent out each November.

The commission also voted to add guidelines for the Family Medical Leave Act to its employee handbook.

The passage reads as follows:

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: The employee must have worked for the employer for at least 12 months before taking leave.

LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS: The birth of a child or placement of a child for adoption or foster care; To bond with a child (leave must be taken within one year of the child's birth or placement); To care for the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a qualifying serious health condition; For the employee's own qualifying health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job; For qualifying exigencies relate to the foreign deployment of a military member who is the employee's spouse, child or parent:

The employee must present the Elected Official/Supervisor a signed letter requesting the leave. If approved, the letter with the employee and Elected Official/Supervisor signatures must be submitted to the Human Resources Department (County Clerk's Office) before payroll is due to be placed in the files.

Upcoming dates to remember

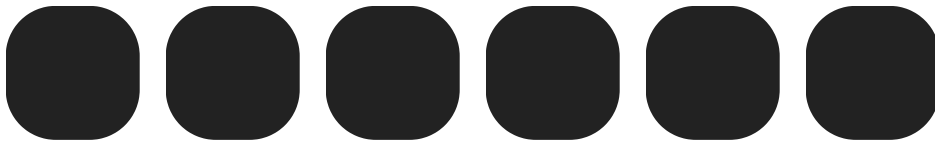
- Feb. 22 is the first day for candidate filing for the Aug. 2 primary election.
- Feb. 22 is the first day for absentee voting for the April municipal election.

Minutes were not available prior to publication.

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Route ZZ in Stoddard County Closed for Culvert Replacement

FEBRUARY 25TH 2022 BY DEE LOFLIN

Route ZZ in Stoddard County Closed for Culvert Replacement

Route ZZ in Stoddard County will be closed as Missouri Department of Transportation replace a culvert under the roadway.?

This section of roadway is located from County Road 642 to County Road 659.

Weather permitting, work will take place Monday, Feb. 28 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

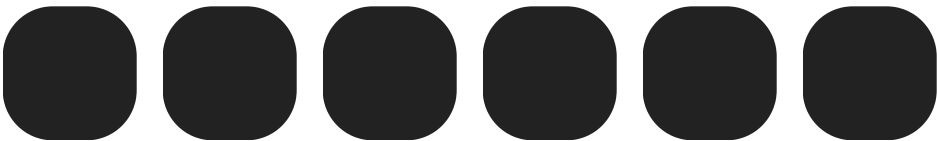
The work zone will be marked with signs. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution while traveling near the area.

For additional information, contact MoDOT’s?Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT

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