



December 16, 2025

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services
Strategy and Policy
Live Animal Imports

5601 Sunnyside Ave
Beltsville, MD 20705

(301) 851-3300

**Recognition of Live Bird Markets Agreement by Drost Farms Ltd.
(Canada) and Recipient of Poultry Shipments, Watkins Poultry
Merchants of New York (United States)**

In response to detections of influenza A virus (all highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI] and low pathogenicity avian influenza [LPAI] viruses) in live bird markets in the northeast United States, APHIS recognizes the informal agreement between Drost Farms Ltd. (Canada) and Watkins Poultry Merchants of New York (United States). Drost Farms Ltd. has agreed to perform weekly testing of waterfowl and biweekly testing of gallinaceous birds for influenza A viruses in live poultry exported from Canada to the United States to ensure that no evidence of communicable disease is present in these flocks.

U.S. import requirements state that each exporting Canadian flock and hatchery must be inspected by a veterinarian within 30 days of import, that no evidence of Newcastle disease or any communicable disease of poultry was found, nor insofar as it has been possible to determine, were the poultry exposed to any such disease during the ninety (90)* days immediately prior to the inspection date. Newcastle disease or HPAI has not occurred on the premises of origin, nor on any adjoining premises during the ninety (90)* day period preceding exportation, and the area where the premises is located has not been under quarantine for any poultry disease during the preceding ninety (90)* days. Poultry covered by this agreement do not originate from flocks, nor have they had contact with any birds or poultry originating in a control zone established by federal animal health authorities due to outbreaks of Newcastle disease or HPAI.

In 2016, weekly testing was an industry voluntary response to the detection of LPAI H5N2 virus at one of the farms. Since then, there have been sporadic emergences of avian influenza A H2N2 virus in the live bird marketing system in the northeastern U.S. live bird markets.

The additional testing by Drost Farms Ltd. for influenza A virus improves safety and security of U.S. live bird markets, as well as all susceptible poultry in the United States and Canada. Negative test results of the weekly and biweekly samples should accompany each import shipment and made available for USDA APHIS staff at U.S. ports of entry, as well as the New York State Veterinarian at the New York Agriculture and Markets Agency.

For any additional questions, please contact:

Live Animal Import and Export

Email: laie@usda.gov

Phone: [301-851-3300](tel:301-851-3300)

*For HPAI, this time frame is reduced to 28 days.