Attention Poultry Producers: The state veterinarian has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Jasper and Moniteau counties in Missouri. Avian influenza (AI)--the bird flu--is a virus that infects wild birds and domestic poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese). There is a flu for birds just as there is for humans and, as with people, some forms of the flu are worse than others. Avian influenza strains are divided into two groups based upon the ability of the virus to produce disease in poultry: low-pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) and highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). LPAI, or “low path” avian influenza, naturally occurs in wild birds and can spread to domestic birds. In most cases it causes no signs of infection or only minor symptoms in birds. HPAI, or “high path” avian influenza, is often fatal in chickens and turkeys. HPAI spreads more rapidly than LPAI and has a higher death rate in birds. If you notice an increase in sickness or death loss in your poultry flock please contact the Missouri Department of Agriculture at 573-751-3377.