

SFA's statement on Global Bird Flu Outbreak

Singapore imports more than 90% of our food. As a globally connected economy with no natural resources, Singapore is vulnerable to external shocks and supply disruptions. To mitigate the impact of supply disruptions, SFA has been diversifying our sources of commonly consumed food items, including chicken, over the years. This ensures that disruptions from any single source does not affect Singapore too severely, as importers can turn to alternative sources to maintain stability of our food supply.

SFA works with the industry to accredit new sources of chicken that meet our food safety requirements. Currently, we have 25 import sources. While our overall supply of chicken is currently stable, we can expect supply fluctuations from time to time due to disease outbreaks and supply disruptions. For instance, several countries are affected by bird flu outbreaks which affected their poultry production.

The food industry is encouraged to diversify and import from various sources, and take steps to contribute to our resilience by implementing Business Continuity Plans. Consumers are also encouraged to be flexible with their food options in the event of disruption.

Additional info on bird flu & food safety

All imported poultry and poultry products, including eggs, must come from sources accredited by SFA. As part of accreditation, SFA assesses the countries to ensure that the country has control measures in place to ensure that the exported poultry, poultry products and eggs are free of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI). In addition, SFA monitors the outbreaks of HPAI worldwide and takes measures to suspend sources that have outbreaks of HPAI. We suspend import from regions affected by HPAI or only allow products that have been heat treated to inactivate the HPAI virus.

SFA and the Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster of the National Parks Board, will continue to work closely with our import sources to ensure that poultry and eggs imported do not compromise public and animal health.

For more information about bird flu and food safety: <https://www.sfa.gov.sg/food-information/risk-at-a-glance/animal-influenza-and-food-safety>

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