



Waffle House is passing along the sky high cost of eggs to diners

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By
The Associated Press



A Waffle House sign is shown in Indianapolis Feb. 19, 2024.
Isabella Volmert/AP

NEW YORK — The Waffle House restaurant chain is putting a 50 cent per egg surcharge in place because of the biggest bird flu outbreak in a decade.



PUBLIC HEALTH

On the frontline against bird flu, egg farmers fear they're losing the battle

The 24-7 restaurant said that the resulting egg shortage has led to a dramatic increase in its costs.

Bird flu is forcing farmers to slaughter millions of chickens a month, pushing U.S. egg prices to more than double their cost in the summer of 2023. And it appears there may be no relief in sight with Easter approaching.

The average price per dozen eggs nationwide hit \$4.15 in December. That is not quite as high as the \$4.82 record set two years ago, but the Agriculture Department predicts

egg prices are going to soar another 20% this year.

The Waffle House, a reliable source of a cheap breakfast, said that its egg surcharge became effective this week and that it applies to all of its menus. The restaurant's two-egg breakfast, which comes with toast and a side, was listed at \$7.75 on Tuesday.

"While we hope these price fluctuations will be short-lived we cannot predict how long this shortage will last," the company said.



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The company continues to monitor egg prices and said that it will adjust or remove the surcharge as market conditions allow.

Last month, the first U.S. human fatality linked bird flu was reported in Louisiana. There have been 67 confirmed bird flu infections of humans in the U.S. since 2024, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The H5N1 bird flu has been spreading widely among wild birds, poultry, cows and other animals. Its growing presence in the environment increases the chances that people will be exposed, and potentially catch it, officials have said, though it remains rare.



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Health officials urge anyone who has contact with sick or dead birds to take precautions, including respiratory and eye protection and gloves when handling poultry.

Waffle House, based in Georgia, has more than 1,900 locations in 25 states.

Pete & Gerry's Organics also faced a difficult situation with its eggs in Antrim Township, Pennsylvania, when 100,000 of them were stolen from the back of its

distribution trailer Saturday night, according to Pennsylvania State Police. Law enforcement are investigating the theft of roughly \$40,000 worth of eggs.

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bird flu



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