

BIOSECURITY GUIDE: KEEPING YOUR POULTRY & FOWL HEALTHY

As a poultry owner, it is important to keep your birds healthy. The movement of poultry, equipment, and people have an increased risk of introducing disease into a flock. By adding these practices to your flock management routine, you can mitigate the risk of diseases like highly pathogenic avian influenza, pullorum-typoid, infectious laryngotracheitis, Virulent Newcastle disease, and other common viral or bacterial diseases that could negatively affect your flock.

Keep It Organized

- Only purchase or source poultry from NPIP-certified breeders, hatcheries, and dealers.
- Know what is coming into contact with your flock. Keep track of feed, visitors, and equipment to avoid disease spread. Limit outside contact as much as possible.
- Report sick and dead birds immediately. If your birds appear sick or you have experienced increased mortality, immediately call your private veterinarian or your TAHC region office.

Keep It Secure

- Prevent wild waterfowl from coming into contact with your flock.
- Keep a clear line of separation between the poultry area and the rest of the world.
- Post signs at the entry point reminding everyone of the steps they need to take to cross the line of separation.
- If possible, limit your poultry's contact with people from other premises.
- Make sure poultry feed and litter are secured to prevent contamination.
- Use a contained water supply. If you use surface water sanitize it first.

Keep It Clean

- Establish procedures for cleaning and disinfecting equipment, clothing, shoes, and vehicles. Coordinate efforts with everyone who comes into contact with your flock to prevent bacteria or virus spread.
- Wear personal protective equipment or clothing and shoes that you only use when caring for your poultry.
- Do not share equipment with other poultry producers.
- Empty and clean shared feed and water sources weekly, and more often if dirty.
- Keep feed and manure handling equipment separate.
- Wash hands before and after coming into contact with poultry.

These biosecurity recommendations are for general disease prevention. For specific poultry and fowl disease prevention practices, please contact your private veterinarian and refer to TAHC disease fact sheets.

