



Biosecurity Measures for Poultry Owners

As a poultry owner, you know how important it is to keep your birds healthy. By practicing biosecurity, you can help reduce the chances of your birds being exposed to animal diseases such as Avian Influenza (AI).

“Biosecurity” may not be a common household word, but for poultry and bird owners it can be the difference between health and disease. Practicing sound biosecurity can help keep disease away from your farm and/or home, and keep your birds healthy.

What is AI?

Avian Influenza is a flu virus that may cause illness in domestic poultry, fowl and birds. There are many strains of the AI virus. Based on the severity of the illness caused by the virus, these strains are put into two classifications, low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) and highly pathogenic (HPAI). LPAI causes only minor illness with a low mortality rate and HPAI causes severe illness and high mortality rates.

Where does AI come from and how does it spread?

The movement of poultry, equipment and people has increased the risk of introducing AI into flocks. Birds exposed to migratory waterfowl are also at increased risk for contracting the virus. Mixing different types of poultry (chickens, turkeys, guineas, etc.) increases the chance of the flock getting AI.

Biosecurity: Make it Your Daily Routine

The following steps can help you keep your birds healthy:

- 1. Keep your distance** - Isolate your birds from visitors and other birds.
- 2. Keep it clean** - Prevent germs from spreading by cleaning shoes, tools and equipment.
- 3. Don't haul disease home** - Clean vehicles and cages.
- 4. Don't borrow disease from you neighbor** - Avoid sharing tools and equipment with neighbors.
- 5. Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases** - Watch for early signs to prevent the spread of disease.
- 6. Report sick birds** - Report unusual signs of disease or unexpected deaths.

For more information about good biosecurity practices, visit www.tahc.texas.gov.

Watch & Report Sick Birds!

- Sudden increase in bird deaths
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft- or thin-shelled, misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs
- Ruffled feathers, listlessness, lethargy

If you have sick or dying birds, please consult your veterinarian or report them to the TAHC or the USDA right away!

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