

# BIOSECURITY BASICS FOR BACKYARD AND SMALL FLOCK POULTRY

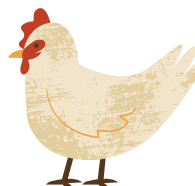
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Biosecurity includes a variety of procedures that can protect both you and your animals from disease and is an important consideration to ensure the health of your livestock. With the recent outbreak of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), poultry practitioners should take extra precautions and reevaluate their biosecurity. Numerous reports of backyard and small flocks infected with the HPAI virus have occurred. Everyone must do their part to ensure their flock's safety and protect others' poultry enterprises.

## THREE MAIN COMPONENTS OF BIOSECURITY

- Isolation – keep your birds away from wildlife (wild birds and other animals)
- Traffic Control – limit people that visit your flock
- Sanitation – keep your equipment and buildings clean



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOUR FLOCK?

### ANIMALS (ISOLATION)

- Don't let dogs or cats in with your flock
- Keep wild birds and wildlife away from your birds
- Remove dead birds quickly
- Quarantine all new birds at least 21 days before mixing them with your current birds



### PEOPLE (TRAFFIC CONTROL)

- Shower and change clothes after being around other birds before seeing your birds
- Limit people coming to see your birds
- Limit going to see other people's birds
- If possible, have visitors coming to see your birds put on clean boots and clothes and ask them not to interact with other poultry prior to visiting your flock

### EQUIPMENT (SANITATION)

- Clean out your chicken coop or building at least twice a year
- Keep the area around the coop clean from waste and debris where rodents can hide
- Mow grass 10 feet around the chicken coop to ward off rodents
- Wash and disinfect water containers weekly
- Clean and disinfect all equipment you use: feeders, waterers, nests, crates, etc.
- Do not share equipment with others who have poultry

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF HPAI TO WATCH OUT FOR

- Sudden high mortality
- Lack of energy and very quiet birds
- Swelling of head, comb, eyelids, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of wattles, comb, and legs
- Nasal discharge, coughing, and sneezing
- Diarrhea (particularly green in color)
- Decrease in feed and water consumption
- Neurologic signs

HPAI can occur quickly leading to sudden death with no warning signs, and is extremely contagious. If you observe any of the symptoms noted above, with sudden high mortality being the most concerning, we encourage you to report it immediately to USDA Healthy Birds Hotline: 866-536-7593.

## WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO ERADICATE THIS DISEASE

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To find the most up to date information you can visit the USDA website  
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/defend-the-flock>

## FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



- <https://vet.purdue.edu/news/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-continues-in-the-news-even-as-cases-end-in-indiana-heres-what-you-need-to-know.php>
- <https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza/>