

HOW POULTRY DISEASE SPREADS

**You are the
best protection
your birds
have.**

Backyard flock

Poultry Equipment Can Spread Disease

- Egg flats
- Crates/coops
- Feeders
- Water containers
- Tools



Bird club meeting/ Show/Exhibit

People Can Spread Disease

- Boots and shoes
- Clothing
- Handling birds



Birds Can Spread Disease

- Bird-to-bird
- Carcasses
- Manure
- Litter/debris
- Feathers
- Exposure to wild birds or pet birds



Auction/Fair/ Swap meet/Feed store

Vehicles and Equipment Can Spread Disease

- Tractors and loaders
- Trucks and cars
- Garden equipment



Backyard flock



<http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>

Keeping Your Birds Healthy

If you own poultry or pet birds, you are responsible for protecting them against disease. By taking three simple steps, you can reduce the risk of disease-causing germs going to or coming from your farm or home. Understanding the importance of these steps can help you avoid spreading disease among your poultry and livestock.

What Is Biosecurity?

The three-step process we call “backyard biosecurity” means doing everything you can to keep diseases out of your flock. Keeping visitors away from your birds; keeping equipment, cages, and feeders clean; and knowing the signs of disease are important biosecurity practices that can prevent diseases from reaching your property.

Why Be Concerned?

- An outbreak of a bird disease such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (bird flu) or exotic Newcastle disease could harm or kill your birds, and it could spread quickly and kill other nearby birds.
- The most important steps in eradicating a disease outbreak are to find the disease early and report it. State and Federal veterinarians want to hear about sick and dying birds. There is no charge for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians to work with you to conduct a disease investigation.
- To report sick birds, call your agricultural extension agent, local veterinarian, State animal diagnostic laboratory, your State Veterinarian, or USDA’s Veterinary Services toll free at 1-866-536-7593.

Biosecurity Tips: 3 Steps To Prevent Poultry Diseases



LOOK FOR SIGNS

- Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases.



REPORT SICK BIRDS

- Call toll-free 1-866-536-7593 and you will be put in touch with a local contact.



PROTECT YOUR BIRDS

- **Keep It Clean:** Keep everything that comes in contact with your birds clean.
- **Keep It Away:** Keep visitors away from your property and your birds.

<http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>

Photo credits: The photo of the chick was taken by USDA photographer Ken Hammond, and the photo of the white chickens was taken by USDA Agricultural Research Service photographer Stephen Ausmus. The photos in the upper left and bottom right inside are USDA photos taken by Madelaine Fletcher. All other photos were taken by APHIS photographer R. Anson Eaglin.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Program Aid No. 1963
 Issued April 2008
 Slightly revised June 2011

Keep Poultry Diseases Away

