

# BACKYARD BIOSECURITY



**What is Backyard Biosecurity?** Backyard biosecurity means doing everything you can to protect your birds from disease. As a bird owner, keeping your birds healthy is a top priority. Your birds can become sick or die from exposure to just a few unseen bacteria, viruses, or parasites. In a single day, these germs can multiply and infect all of your birds.

By practicing backyard biosecurity, you will help keep your birds healthy. If you follow some basic tips and make them part of your routine, you decrease the risk of disease entering your flock and persisting in soil, droppings, and debris. Practicing biosecurity is an investment in the health of your birds.

## 1 KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Restrict access to your property and your birds. Consider fencing off the area where you keep your birds and make a barrier area if possible. Allow only people who take care of birds to come into contact with them. If visitors have birds of their own, do not let them near your birds. Game birds and migratory waterfowl should not have contact with your flock because they can carry germs and diseases.



## 2 KEEP IT CLEAN

Wear clean clothes, scrub your shoes with disinfectant, and wash your hands thoroughly before entering your area. Clean cages and change food and water daily. Clean and disinfect equipment that comes in contact with birds and their waste.

## 3 DON'T HAUL DISEASE HOME

If you've been near other birds or bird owners, such as at a feed store, clean and disinfect car and truck tires, poultry cages, and equipment before going home. Keep birds that attend fairs or exhibitions away from the rest of the flock for at least 2 weeks. New birds should be kept from the flock for 30 days.



## 4 DON'T BORROW DISEASE FROM YOUR NEIGHBOR

Do not share lawn and garden equipment, tools, or poultry supplies with neighbors or other bird owners. If you do bring these items home, clean and disinfect them before they reach your property.



## 5 KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS OF INFECTIOUS BIRD DISEASE

- 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, combs, and legs
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck
- Lack of movement or sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock

## 6 REPORT SICK BIRDS

Don't wait! If your birds are sick or dying call your local Cooperative Extension office, local or State veterinarian, or **U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services** office to find out why. Or, call the **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** toll-free at 1-866-536-7593.



# 6 WAYS TO PREVENT POULTRY DISEASE



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