



KEEPING YOUR BIRDS HEALTHY

Backyard Biosecurity

You are the best protection your birds have.

Here are three simple steps, referred to as "backyard biosecurity", that will help keep your birds free of disease. Backyard biosecurity means doing everything you can to protect your birds from disease.

Follow these three steps and you will be helping to protect your birds and those of your neighbors!



LOOK
for Signs.

Know the warning signs of bird diseases such as Avian Influenza (AI) and exotic Newcastle disease (END). Early detection can help prevent the spread of disease.

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock (more than normal)
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and/or runny nose
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy or poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft or misshapen eggs
- Swelling around eyes, neck, head
- Purple discoloration of wattles, combs, and legs

MORE INFORMATION AT:

HEALTHYBIRDS.APHIS.USDA.GOV



PROTECT
Your Birds.

Keep it CLEAN.

These are a few important things to remember in your bird care routine.

- **Wash your hands** thoroughly before entering your bird area & before working your birds.
- **Clean cages and change food and water daily.**
- **Clean and disinfect equipment** that comes in contact with your birds and their droppings, including cages and tools
- **Make sure to clean off all dirt and manure** before you disinfect.
 - If you do borrow tools or cages, clean and disinfect them before they reach your property
- **Scrub your shoes with disinfectant.** Your boots and shoes can easily track diseases to your birds. Or keep a separate pair of shoes or boots near your cages to wear in your bird area.
- **Wear clean clothes** that you use only when you feed and care for your birds.



REPORT
Sick Birds.

Don't WAIT.

If your birds are sick or dying, call the State Veterinarian office @ 334-240-7255, or the Poultry Office @ 334-240-6584.

You can also call

- Your local cooperative extension office
- Your state animal/poultry diagnostic laboratory: Thompson Bishop Sparks State Diagnostic Laboratory
334-844-4987





Q & A- BIOSECURITY FOR BIRDS

Backyard Biosecurity

Q What is "Biosecurity for Birds?"

"Biosecurity for Birds" means doing everything you can to protect your birds from disease. There are three basic steps that you can take to protect your flocks:

1. Look for signs- Know the warning signs.
2. Report sick birds. Don't wait! If your birds are sick or dying call 1-334-240-6584.
3. Protect your birds- When it comes to protecting your birds from disease, there are two things to remember:
 - a. **Keep it Clean** by washing and disinfecting hands, tools, cages, clothes, shoes, and equipment after working with birds.
 - b. **Keep it Away** by keeping your birds away from other poultry when possible and following proper steps when bringing birds in from outside farms or events.

Q Who should you contact if you have sick birds?

Don't wait! If your birds are sick or dying call:
State Veterinarian's office: 334-240-7255
State Poultry Office: 334-240-6584
Local Veterinarian
Local cooperative extension office

Q What are the signs a bird is sick?

1. Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock
2. Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing
3. Watery or green diarrhea
4. Lack of energy and poor appetite
5. Drop in egg production or thin shelled eggs
6. Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
7. Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs (AI)
8. Tremors, drooping wings, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (END)

Q Why should I care about biosecurity?

The US Investment in poultry is in the billions of dollars. Outbreaks of bird diseases such as AI or exotic Newcastle disease can spread and kill flocks quickly. An outbreak can happen anywhere and these diseases can spread to surrounding birds.

Q What is Avian Influenza or Bird Flu?

Avian Influenza "AI" or bird flu is a highly contagious viral disease that can infect many types of birds.

Q What is Exotic Newcastle Disease?

END, or exotic Newcastle disease, is a contagious poultry disease that attacks many types of birds.

Q Should I report a sick bird if I'm unsure it's AI or END?

YES! Let the experts make the determination. We would rather people be cautious than let one of these highly contagious diseases go unreported.

Q How can I get more info on Biosecurity for Birds?

healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov
agi.alabama.gov



**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRIES**
ANIMAL INDUSTRY: 334-240-7255
POULTRY OFFICE: 334-240-6584