

AVIAN FLU – WHAT CAN YOU DO

We strongly advise that all breeders and exhibitors use their common sense and follow strict Biosecurity practices for their own good and the benefit of small flock the and commercial industries.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility. Although it is very important to keep your birds in clean coops, with fresh food, water, and free from lice and mites, this may not be enough to protect them from A.I. It is bad enough to think a wild bird could fly over and infect your property but, if you do not think biosecurity, you could personally bring Avian Influenza onto your own poultry yard.

Here are some of the ways that A.I. may be brought onto your property:

- Shoes
- Clothes
- Any part of a car or truck that may have been contaminated by driving through an infected area, especially the tires and undercarriage.
- Feed bags from a store where the bags may have been left outside.
- Infected feed or water dishes outside the "enclosed coop" for the convenience of your birds.
- Outside bathing pools for your waterfowl or letting your waterfowl swim in ponds that may have been contaminated by wild birds.

You want to do everything you can to keep your birds safe.

The following are suggestions on how to do so:

- A. **Shoes:** Use disposable shoe covers or have a pair of boots or shoes that you use only in and around your poultry yard. If you use shoe covers, make sure to properly dispose of them.
- B. **Clothes:** Now this one is harder. It is important that any clothing worn around poultry or at any poultry-related activity be kept separate from other clothing and laundered in soap and hot water.
- C. **Truck/Car Tires:** The tires of any vehicle that has been near a poultry yard or has had close contact with poultry in any way, should be **disinfected**. One way to accomplish this is to use a garden sprayer with a good disinfectant or a mixture of chlorine bleach and water to spray the tires when returning home. It is also important to clean and disinfect any bird droppings that may be on you vehicle.
- D. **Feed Bags:** Feed should be placed into clean feed barrels as soon as possible and the feed bags disposed of properly.
- E. **Feed and Water Dishes:** Keep them under cover. Either in the barn/coop, or build a cover over them if you leave them outside. This will make it much harder for wild birds to contaminate them.
- F. **Ponds or Bathing Pools:** If you have a pond on your property, you should keep your birds away from it. It is best to have some wading pools in an enclosed area and change the water daily.