



Nebraska Poultry Biosecurity Guidebook Backyard Poultry



March 2010

Backyard Poultry Biosecurity

Practicing good biosecurity and farm management will help decrease the chance of disease on the farm. Vaccination only provides limited protection for a limited period of time. Believing that vaccination gives 100% protection will give you a false sense of security.

The first step to disease prevention is protection from exposure to disease agents. “Bio” means biological referring to birds or disease agents and “security” refers to safety against these diseases. Strictly following the biosecurity guidelines below will help decrease the chance of disease. Diseases are contagious and are spread very easily, so biosecurity must be practiced at all times. Disease can be spread by movement of birds, people, vehicles, pets, clothing, machinery, insects, rodents, and contaminated material. Manure can spread disease on hands, shoes, cages, and equipment.

Following biosecurity measures will decrease the risk of your birds dying from disease. You are the best protection your birds have. The main concepts of biosecurity are listed, reviewed below, and in the DVD, “Backyard Biosecurity: Practices To Keep Your Birds Healthy” by USDA-APHIS.

The main concepts of Backyard Poultry biosecurity are:

- **Keep Your Distance**
- **Keep It Clean**
- **Don't Haul Disease Home**
- **Don't Borrow Disease From Your Neighbor**
- **Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases**
- **Report Sick Birds**



Keep Your Distance

- Control access to your birds to keep diseases out.
- Restrict visitors because they could bring diseases to your birds.
- Post a **“No Trespassing Sign”** at the entrance of your property or at the entrance to where you keep your birds.
- If visitors have been in contact with any birds within the last 48 hours, they should wash and disinfect their hands, shoes, and wear clean coveralls that are kept at your facility for visitors.
- Don't let visitors bring their birds near yours.
- Move your birds away from an area where you expect visitors on a regular basis or fence off with a barrier.
- Designate a clean area which is inside the barrier and a dirty area which is outside the barrier.
- Keep pets and wild animals out of the clean area.
- Do not allow people or move objects across the barrier to the clean area without cleaning and disinfection. This is especially important if one has visited a bird market, aviary, pet shop, neighbor's birds, or a feed store.



Keep It Clean

- Before handling birds, wash hands thoroughly with soap, water, and disinfectant.
- Supplies should include water, soap, disinfectant, and brush for cleaning soles of boots.
- Remove manure or mud from surfaces first or disinfectant will not work.
- Blow nose and clean ears with tissues and discard; wash hands again or shower and wash clothes as soon as possible; put on clean clothes used only for being around your birds; wash hands again.
- Keep freshly laundered clothes, such as coveralls and boots, in a tub at the entrance to the clean area where your birds are located.
- Always keep bird enclosures and equipment as clean as possible.
- Empty, clean, and disinfect feeders on a regular basis; feed scoops, shovels, rakes, brooms, etc., should all be cleaned and disinfected when they enter and leave the bird area.
- Remember disinfectant has no effect on dirt, mud, caked-on manure, or accumulated dust. You must clean with soap and water first then apply disinfectant.
- Poultry sales, auctions, or swap meet facilities should be cleaned and disinfected after each event.



Don't Haul Disease Home

- Always be on the alert to prevent ways of bringing disease to your birds.
- The outside of a feed bag may be contaminated. Empty contents into a sanitized container and discard the bag.
- If your birds have been to a show, fair, or exhibition keep them separate from your other birds in a quarantine area for two weeks after the event and watch for signs of disease.
- New birds for your flock should be kept separated for three weeks to one month in a quarantine area.
- Bacteria and viruses will die over time; exposure to heat and sunlight works best.
- Avoid physical contact with your birds for at least a day after being around other poultry such as birds at auctions, aviaries, and other farms.
- Vehicles should be cleaned after visiting aviaries, auctions, or other farms. Use a pressure washer to especially clean tires and undercarriage; dislodge any dirt. Also, clean interiors with a cloth and disinfectant, because you could have transported disease agent on your hands and feet.



Don't Borrow Disease from Your Neighbor

- Use your own equipment.
- Don't share birds, equipment, or feed with other bird owners. This is very important.
- If you plan to bring home equipment, clean and disinfect it before bringing it to your property where your birds are located.



Know the Warning Signs for Infectious Diseases

- Poultry sales, auctions, or swap meet organizers should not allow sick birds to enter the sales or swap facility.
- Diseases can be difficult to diagnose, but you can recognize potential problems and contact a veterinarian to diagnose the disease.
- Some poultry diseases are avian influenza, Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis, infectious laryngotracheitis, infectious bursal disease, infectious coryza, and mycoplasmosis.
- **High mortality and sudden death in a flock should be reported immediately.**
- Signs of disease to look for are:
 - Unusual drop in egg production



- Soft or misshapen eggs
- Weight loss
- Sneezing, coughing, gasping for air, nasal discharge
- Greenish watery diarrhea
- Listlessness, muscular tremors, drooping wings
- Twisting of head or neck
- Complete paralysis
- Swelling around eyes and neck
- Lameness and tumors
- Sudden death or unusual number of birds dying

Report Sick Birds

- To report sick birds, contact your local veterinarian or contact the State Veterinarian's office (402) 471-2351 or 800-572-2437.
- State labs can provide low-cost diagnostic services. You can take your sick or dead birds to these labs. The diagnostic lab in Nebraska is the University of Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center (UNL-VDC). Their telephone number is (402) 472-1434.
- It is important to diagnose and stop a disease problem before it spreads.
- Also, you can call USDA at 866-536-7593.





Nebraska Backyard Poultry Biosecurity Checklist

The following checklist is provided to assist backyard and live market poultry owners in following the **Nebraska Backyard Poultry Biosecurity Guidelines**. This checklist should be used in conjunction with the **Backyard Poultry Biosecurity Guidelines**. Answer each question about biosecurity practices and score yourself according to your answer. As you answer each question, write down comments on how you can improve in this area. Repeat the checklist every month to make sure you are practicing good biosecurity.

This checklist applies to the following poultry farm:

Date: _____

Owner: _____

Address: _____

Summary:

Area	Maximum Score	Premises Score
Education and Training	100	
Keeping your Distance	125	
Keeping it Clean	125	
Hauling Disease Home	125	
Disease from Others	75	
Disease Signs and Mortality	50	
Reporting Disease	75	
TOTAL	675	
Percentage	100%	

Education and Training 	Question	Answer	100	Score	Comments
Training	Have you, your family, and helpers read and understand the Biosecurity Guidebook?	Yes = 50 No = 0	50		
Biosecurity Manual	Is your Biosecurity Guidebook readily available for reference?	Yes = 50 No = 0	50		
Keeping Your Distance 			125		
Visitors	Do you restrict visitors on the premises where your birds are located?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
No Trespassing Sign	Do you have a "No Trespassing" sign posted on your premises or where you keep your birds?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Visitor's Birds	Do you prevent visitors from bringing their birds on your premises?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Bird Contact	Do you make sure your visitors have not been around other birds for 48 hours?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Isolation	Are your birds in a protected area away from where you receive visitors and that keeps wild birds and pets out?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Keeping It Clean 			125		
Hands	Do you wash your hands thoroughly before handling your birds?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Dirt and Manure	Do you remove dirt and manure from surfaces or equipment before cleaning and disinfecting?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Clean Work Clothes	Do you have clothes that are only worn around your birds? Are these clothes cleaned every day?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		

Premises and Equipment	Do you regularly clean and disinfect your poultry premises and equipment?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Feeders and Waterers	Do you regularly clean and disinfect feeders, waterers, feed scoops, shovels, etc?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Hauling Disease Home 			125		
Outside Material	Do you disinfect outside material that you bring to your bird area?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Shows, Fairs, Exhibitions	If your birds have been to a show, fair, or exhibition do you keep them separate from your other birds for two weeks when they return?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
New Bird(s)	Do you keep a new bird isolated from your flock for three weeks to one month?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Other Poultry Visitation	If you visit other premises that have birds, do you avoid physical contact with your birds for at least a day?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Vehicle	If you visit other premises that have birds do you clean your vehicle inside and out?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Disease From Others 			75		
Equipment	Do you use only your own equipment on your poultry premises?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Sharing	Do you avoid sharing birds, feed, and equipment with other bird owners?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Outside Equipment	Do you clean and disinfect equipment before you bring it on your premises?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Disease Signs and Mortality 			50		

Mortality and Signs	Do you know to report high mortality and sudden death immediately? Do you know common signs of poultry disease?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Veterinarian	Do you know the name and telephone number of a local veterinarian?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Reporting Disease 			75		
Veterinarian	Do you know the contact information for your local veterinarian or State Veterinarian's office to report disease?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Laboratory	Do you know the contact information for the UNL-VDC?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
USDA	Do you know that you can call USDA at 866-536-7593 to report poultry disease?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Total			675		

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