



Nebraska Poultry Biosecurity Guidebook

Commercial Poultry

March 2010

Nebraska Poultry Biosecurity Guidebook

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Nebraska Commercial Table Egg Layer Biosecurity



Commercial Table Egg Layer Biosecurity Guidelines

Practicing good biosecurity and farm management will help decrease the chance of disease on the farm. The first step to disease prevention is protection from exposure to disease agents. Strictly following the biosecurity guidelines below will help decrease the chance of disease. Poultry diseases are controlled by biosecurity, veterinary health care, complete vaccination programs, high-quality diet, enclosed housing, and high standard of farm and bird management. Disease can occur if a flock is challenged with a new strain of a virus, bacteria, and parasite or if there is a breach in biosecurity.

Biosecurity must be practiced at all times. All growers and workers should have documented biosecurity training. A biosecurity checklist should be posted or kept on each farm.

Biosecurity measures should be audited frequently for compliance. The main concepts of biosecurity are listed, reviewed below, and presented in the DVD, "Biosecurity Training for Commercial Poultry Farm Workers" by USDA-APHIS.

The main concepts of Commercial Table Egg Layer biosecurity are:

- **Cleaning and Disinfecting**
- **Isolation**
- **Traffic Control**
- **Pest Control**
- **Dead Bird Disposal**



Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Kills germs that cause disease.
- Visitors, growers, and employees must wash hands before entering and leaving the farm. Acceptable methods include waterless gels, disinfecting hand wipes, or soap and water.
- Clean work clothes should be worn to prevent disease spread. Proper clothing requirements for visits to a commercial poultry operation are disposable coveralls, hairnet, gloves, and plastic boots. The disposable clothing should be disposed of on the farm before the individual leaves the premises.
- Farm workers should shower and wear clean clothes to work. Workers may be asked to change into work clothes on the farm.
- Growers and their workers, living on the farm premises, should have designated clothing to be worn while on the poultry farm. If a person leaves the premises they should change clothes, including footwear, before leaving.
- If a grower has employees who live off the farm premises, these employees should shower, prior to coming to the farm, and wear clothing designated, including footwear, for farm use only. Special care should be taken to ensure contamination (disease) is not brought to the farm from outside the farm premises.
- Hands should be disinfected before leaving the dressing area and before entering each house.
- Boots should be dipped in the footbath between each house.
- All equipment used inside the poultry houses should be cleaned and disinfected prior to entering and after exiting the houses. This includes equipment used for clean out and new flock set up. Equipment should not be shared between farms, unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.



Isolation

- Keep birds away from germs.
- Keep birds away from objects or persons who can carry germs.
- Park away from poultry houses.
- Fence in the perimeter of the poultry operation and keep fence in good repair or a natural perimeter should be established around the farm. If anything from outside the area is entering the farm, it should be considered a source for contamination and disease.
- Do not use open bodies of water such as a pond or lake as a source for poultry drinking water or for misting to cool the birds. Ponds and lakes can be contaminated with viruses such as Avian Influenza (AI) from migrating birds.



Traffic Control

- Keep germs away from birds.
- Do not allow anyone to enter poultry houses, unless biosecurity rules are followed.
- All visitors must sign a visitor log book and indicate recent bird exposure. Visitors should have a purpose for being on the premises that relates to the proper care and well being of the flock. Anyone who needs to visit the grower or his agents who does not need to physically be on the farm should contact the grower prior to going to the farm and arrange to meet away from the farm.
- Post a biosecurity sign stating “no entrance” on all entrances to poultry housing areas. If appropriate, the sign should also be in Spanish.
- Vehicles, upon entering and leaving the farm, should have the tires disinfected.
- Footbath with disinfectant should be placed at the entrance of each house and should be used before entering and after leaving the poultry house. The footbath should be a minimum of 1” deep with the proper dilution of disinfectant. If the baths are located outside the house, they should be covered to keep rain and foreign matter out.
- Hands should be disinfected before entering and after leaving the poultry house.
- Doors to each house may be kept locked to decrease unauthorized entry.
- Visit sick flock last.
- Visit farms or houses in order of youngest to oldest flocks.



Pest Control

- Maintain satisfactory rodent and fly control programs.
- Keep doors shut and locked.
- Always look for evidence of rodents. Block holes and trap rodents or wild birds.
- Do not allow wild birds to nest on or around the poultry houses.
- Keep areas around houses clean to prevent rodent infestation. Remove all nonessential items from within and around the poultry houses.
- The area within 100 feet of the houses should be kept mowed. The ditches should be maintained to allow for water to leave the area and not puddle. These items will help limit the exposure to disease from mosquitoes and other pests.
- Keep animals and wild birds out of and away from the poultry houses. It is important to minimize animal activity around the poultry houses. This includes pets, wild animals, and other farm animals.
- Feed spills should be cleaned up promptly to minimize a food source for wild animals which can be carriers of disease.



Dead Bird Disposal

- Keep contamination away from the flock.
- Proper disposal of dead birds is essential for a good biosecurity program. If dead birds are to be left outside the house at any time, they should be placed in a covered container.
- Collect mortality last and dispose of properly to prevent spread of disease to other houses and to prevent pest activity.
- Wash hands after handling dead birds.



Miscellaneous

- Growers and poultry workers should not have birds of any type on their farm premises or where they reside. It is very important for all persons to restrict their contact with birds and people who are associated with birds. This contact could be at fairs, shows, bird hunting of any kind, emus, or playing with pet birds or geese. If contact does occur then wash clothes as soon as possible and clean vehicle inside and out.
- Growers and poultry workers should not visit other poultry operations.
- Collect and properly dispose of any loose birds outside the house.
- Workers should report sick birds, production decreases, or odd shaped eggs immediately to their supervisor.
- Do clean jobs, such as gathering eggs, first of the day.
- Do dirty jobs, such as collecting mortality, last of the day.
- Migratory birds may use this area as part of their flyway. If migratory birds are in the area, special care should be taken to avoid infecting the flock with diseases that may be carried by these birds such as AI.
- Anytime there is a change in labor, new employees should be trained on biosecurity.
- Poultry should not be allowed to leave or enter the farm, except under the control of the company that owns the birds. Poultry should not be sold or given away, unless the grower is authorized to do so.



Know the Warning Signs for Infectious Diseases

- Diseases can be difficult to diagnose, but you can recognize potential problems and contact a veterinarian to diagnose the disease.
- Some poultry diseases are AI, 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 Commercial Table Egg Layer Biosecurity Audit Checklist

The following checklist is provided to assist commercial poultry operations in following the **Nebraska Commercial Table Egg Layer Biosecurity Guidelines**. This audit checklist should be used in conjunction with the **Commercial Table Egg Layer Biosecurity Guidelines**.

This audit applies to the following company, complex, or facility:

Auditor: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Date: _____ **Accompanied by:** _____ **Title:** _____

Summary:

Area	Max Score	Facility Score
Education and Training	125	
Cleaning and Disinfection	100	
Isolation	75	
Traffic Control	150	
Pest Control	125	
Dead Bird Disposal	50	
Miscellaneous	75	
Disease Signs and Mortality	50	
Reporting Disease	75	
TOTAL	825	
Percentage	100%	

Education and Training 	Objective	Verification	125	Score	Comments
Designated Management	Designated person or management group in charge of biosecurity practices.	Identify designated person or management group.	25		
Required Training	Personnel involved in live poultry production should receive sufficient training on biosecurity guidelines.	Verify that the company or grower being audited has a training program, and the training program has been completed by all personnel involved in live poultry production.	50		
Biosecurity Manual	Biosecurity Guidebook should be readily available for reference.	Verify that the Nebraska Poultry Biosecurity Guidebook is readily available for reference.	50		
Cleaning and Disinfection (C&D) 			100		
Hand Sanitation	Visitors, growers, and employees must wash hands before entering and leaving houses and farms.	Verify hand sanitation gel or clean running water and soap are readily available on the farm or facility. Verify hand sanitation procedures.	25		
Clean Work Clothes	Clean work clothes should be worn by workers and visitors.	Verify workers wear designated work clothes on farm and disposable coveralls, hairnets, gloves, and plastics boots are provided to visitors.	25		
Boot Disinfection	Boots worn on farm are disinfected before leaving the dressing area and entering each house.	Verify cleaning and disinfection materials are available in these areas and are being done.	25		

Equipment	Equipment used in houses should be C&D prior to entering and after exiting farm premises.	Verify equipment C&D procedures.	25		
Isolation 			75		
Parking	Vehicles, when coming on to a farm, should park away from the poultry house.	Verify that vehicles are parked away from poultry houses.	25		
Perimeter Fence or Natural Barrier	Fence or natural barrier around poultry facility should be maintained to prevent or discourage anything from the outside from entering the area.	Verify perimeter fence or natural barrier around poultry facility or houses.	25		
Water Source	Drinking or misting water should be from a clean source.	Verify that water used in the poultry houses is from a clean source not from open bodies of water.	25		
Traffic Control 			150		
Visitor Log	Visitor log book is used for all visitors.	Verify visitor log book and that the entries are up to date and indicate recent bird exposure.	25		
Biosecurity Sign	Biosecurity or restricted entrance signs are prominently posted.	Verify signs are posted on all entrances to poultry houses areas.	25		
Vehicle Tire Disinfection	Vehicle tires should be disinfected upon entering and leaving farms.	Verify tire disinfection practices and procedures.	25		

Footbaths	Footbath with disinfectant should be placed at the entrance of each house and be used before entering and after leaving the poultry house.	Verify footbath placement and presence of disinfectant and cleanliness of footbath.	25		
Security	Poultry houses or facilities may be locked to prevent unauthorized entry.	Verify house or facility security.	25		
Flock Visitation	Sick flocks/houses should be visited last. Flocks/houses should be visited in order of youngest to oldest.	Verify flock visitation procedure or policy.	25		
Pest Control 			125		
Rodent and Fly Control	Effective rodent and fly control programs should be in place.	Verify documentation of rodent and fly monitoring and control.	25		
Pest activity	There should be no evidence of rodent or wild bird activity and potential entry points.	Verify no evidence of rodent or wild bird activity in or around houses. Look for potential areas of entry such as holes in housing.	25		
Interior and Exterior Cleanliness	There should be no non-essential items in or around the houses.	Verify interior and exterior cleanliness.	25		
Exterior Landscape Maintenance	An area within 100 feet of houses should be kept mowed. Ditches should drain adequately.	Verify mowed area around houses and no standing water in ditches.	25		
Feed Spillage	Feed spills should be cleaned up to prevent attraction of wild animals or pets.	Verify that there are no feed spills under or around feed bins.	25		
Dead Bird Disposal 			50		

Proper Disposal	Mortality should be placed in a covered container or secured area.	Verify mortality in covered or secured area.	25		
Mortality Collection	Mortality should be collected last to prevent potential disease spread.	Verify mortality collection schedule.	25		
Miscellaneous 			75		
Outside Poultry	Growers and workers should not have any other poultry on their premises or where they reside.	Verify signed statements by growers or workers that they will not have other poultry or pet birds.	25		
Loose Birds	There should be no loose birds around the poultry houses.	Verify no loose birds.	25		
Poultry Movement	Poultry should not be allowed to leave or enter the farm except under company control.	Verify grower understanding of this policy.	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			825		

Nebraska Commercial Broiler Biosecurity



Commercial Broiler Biosecurity Guidelines

Practicing good biosecurity and farm management will help decrease the chance of disease on the farm. The first step to disease prevention is protection from exposure to disease agents. Strictly following the biosecurity guidelines below will help decrease the chance of disease. Poultry diseases are controlled by biosecurity, veterinary health care, complete vaccination programs, high-quality diet, enclosed housing, and high standard of farm and bird management. Disease can occur if a flock is challenged with a new strain of a virus, bacteria, and parasite, or if there is a breach in biosecurity.

Biosecurity must be practiced at all times. All growers and workers should have documented biosecurity training. A biosecurity checklist should be posted or kept on each farm. Biosecurity measures should be audited frequently for compliance.

The main concepts of biosecurity are listed, reviewed below, and presented in the DVD, "Biosecurity Training for Commercial Poultry Farm Workers" by USDA-APHIS.

The main concepts of Commercial Broiler biosecurity are:

- **Cleaning and Disinfecting**
- **Isolation**
- **Traffic Control**
- **Pest Control**
- **Dead Bird Disposal**



Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Kills germs that cause disease.
- Visitors, growers, and employees must wash hands before entering and leaving the farm. Acceptable methods include waterless gels, disinfecting hand wipes, or soap and water.
- Clean work clothes should be worn to prevent disease spread. Proper clothing requirements for visits to a commercial poultry operation are disposable coveralls, hairnet, gloves, and plastic boots. The disposable clothing should be disposed of on the farm before the individual leaves the premises.
- Farm workers should shower and wear clean clothes to work. Workers may be asked to change into work clothes on the farm.
- Growers and their workers living on the farm premises should have designated clothing to be worn while on the poultry farm. If a person leaves the premises they should change clothes, including footwear, before leaving.
- If a grower has employees who live off the farm premises, these employees should shower prior to coming to the farm and wear clothing designated, including footwear, for farm use only. Special care should be taken to ensure contamination (disease) is not brought to the farm from outside the farm premises.
- Hands should be disinfected before leaving the dressing area and before entering each house.
- Boots should be dipped in the footbath between each house.
- All equipment used inside the poultry houses should be cleaned and disinfected prior to entering and after exiting the houses. This includes equipment used for clean out and new flock set up. Equipment should not be shared between farms, unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.



Isolation

- Keep birds from germs.
- Keep birds away from objects or persons who can carry germs.
- Park away from poultry houses.
- Fence in the perimeter of the poultry operation and keep fence in good repair or a natural perimeter should be established around the farm. If anything from outside the area is entering the farm, it should be considered a source for contamination and disease.
- Do not use open bodies of water such as a pond or lake as a source for poultry drinking water or for misting to cool the birds. Ponds and lakes can be contaminated with viruses such as AI from migrating birds.



Traffic Control

- Keep germs away from birds.
- Do not allow anyone to enter poultry houses, unless biosecurity rules are followed.
- All visitors must sign a visitor log book and indicate recent bird exposure. Visitors should have a purpose for being on the premises that relates to the proper care and well being of the flock. Anyone who needs to visit the grower or his agents who does not need to physically be on the farm should contact the grower prior to going to the farm and arrange to meet away from the farm.
- Post a biosecurity sign stating “no entrance” on all entrances to poultry housing areas. If appropriate, the sign should also be in Spanish.
- Vehicles upon entering and leaving the farm should have the tires disinfected.
- Footbath with disinfectant should be placed at the entrance of each house and should be used before entering and after leaving the poultry house. The footbath should be a minimum of 1” deep with the proper dilution of disinfectant. If the baths are located outside the house, they should be covered to keep rain and foreign matter out.
- Hands should be disinfected before entering and after leaving the poultry house.
- Doors to each house may be kept locked to decrease unauthorized entry.
- Visit sick flock last.
- Visit farms or houses in order of youngest to oldest flocks.



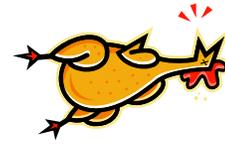
Pest Control

- Maintain satisfactory rodent and fly control programs.
- Keep doors shut and locked.
- Always look for evidence of rodents. Block holes and trap rodents or wild birds.
- Do not allow wild birds to nest on or around the poultry houses.
- Keep areas around houses clean to prevent rodent infestation. Remove all nonessential items from within and around the poultry houses.
- The area within 100 feet of the houses should be kept mowed. The ditches should be maintained to allow for water to leave the area and not puddle. These items will help limit the exposure to disease from mosquitoes and other pests.
- Keep animals and wild birds out of and away from the poultry houses. It is important to minimize animal activity around the poultry houses. This includes pets, wild animals, and other farm animals.
- Feed spills should be cleaned up promptly to minimize a food source for wild animals which can be carriers of disease.



Dead Bird Disposal

- Keeps contamination away from the flock.
- Proper disposal of dead birds is essential for a good biosecurity program. If dead birds are to be left outside the house at any time, they should be placed in a covered container.
- Collect mortality last and dispose of properly to prevent spread of disease to other houses and to prevent pest activity.
- Wash hands after handling dead birds.



Miscellaneous

- Growers and poultry workers should not have birds of any type on their farm premises or where they reside. It is very important for all persons to restrict their contact with birds and people who are associated with birds. This contact could be at fairs, shows, bird hunting of any kind, emus, or playing with pet birds or geese. If contact does occur then wash clothes as soon as possible and clean vehicle inside and out.
- Growers and poultry workers should not visit other poultry operations.
- Collect and properly dispose of any loose birds outside the house.
- Workers should report sick birds, production decreases, or odd-shaped eggs immediately to their supervisor.
- Do clean jobs, such as checking feed and water, first of the day.
- Do dirty jobs, such as collecting mortality, last of the day.
- Migratory birds may use this area as part of their flyway. If migratory birds are in the area, special care should be taken to avoid infecting the flock with diseases that may be carried by these birds such as AI.
- Anytime there is a change in labor, new employees should be trained on biosecurity.
- Poultry should not be allowed to leave or enter the farm, except under the control of the company that owns the birds. Poultry should not be sold or given away, unless the grower is authorized to do so.



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- Diseases can be difficult to diagnose, but you can recognize potential problems and contact a veterinarian to diagnose the disease.
- Some poultry diseases are AI, 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 Commercial Broiler Biosecurity Audit Checklist

The following checklist is provided to assist commercial broiler operations in following the **Nebraska Commercial Broiler Biosecurity Guidelines**. This audit checklist should be used in conjunction with the **Commercial Broiler Biosecurity Guidelines**.

This audit applies to the following company, complex or facility:

Auditor: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Date: _____ **Accompanied by:** _____ **Title:** _____

Summary:

Area	Maximum Score	Facility Score
Education and Training	125	
Cleaning and Disinfection	100	
Isolation	75	
Traffic Control	150	
Pest Control	125	
Dead Bird Disposal	50	
Miscellaneous	75	
Disease Signs and Mortality	50	
Reporting Disease	75	
TOTAL	825	
Percentage	100%	

Education and Training 	Objective	Verification	125	Score	Comments
Designated Management	Designated person or management group in charge of biosecurity practices.	Identify designated person or management group.	25		
Required Training	Personnel involved in live poultry production should receive sufficient training on biosecurity guidelines.	Verify that the company or grower being audited has a training program and that the training program has been completed by all personnel involved in live poultry production.	50		
Biosecurity Manual	Biosecurity Guidebook should be readily available for reference.	Verify that the Nebraska Poultry Biosecurity Guidebook is readily available for reference.	50		
Cleaning and Disinfection (C&D) 			100		
Hand Sanitation	Visitors, growers, and employees must wash hands before entering and leaving houses and farms.	Verify hand sanitation gel or clean running water and soap are readily available on the farm or facility. Verify hand sanitation procedures.	25		
Clean Work Clothes	Clean work clothes should be worn by workers and visitors.	Verify workers wear designated work clothes on farm and disposable coveralls, hairnets, gloves, and plastics boots are provided to visitors.	25		
Boot Disinfection	Boots worn on farm are disinfected before leaving the dressing area and entering each house.	Verify cleaning and disinfection materials are available in these areas and are being done.	25		
Equipment	Equipment used in houses should be C&D prior to entering and after exiting farm premises.	Verify equipment C&D procedures.	25		

Isolation 			75		
Parking	Vehicles when coming on to a farm should park away from the poultry house.	Verify that vehicles are parked away from poultry houses.	25		
Perimeter Fence or Natural Barrier	Fence or natural barrier around poultry facility should be maintained to prevent or discourage anything from the outside from entering the area.	Verify perimeter fence or natural barrier around poultry facility or houses.	25		
Water Source	Drinking or misting water should be from a clean source.	Verify that water used in the poultry houses is from a clean source not from open bodies of water.	25		
Traffic Control 			150		
Visitor Log	Visitor log book is used for all visitors.	Verify visitor log book and that the entries are up to date and indicate recent bird exposure.	25		
Biosecurity Sign	Biosecurity or restricted entrance signs are prominently posted.	Verify signs are posted on all entrances to poultry houses areas.	25		
Vehicle Tire Disinfection	Vehicle tires should be disinfected upon entering and leaving farms.	Verify tire disinfection practices and procedures.	25		
Footbaths	Footbath with disinfectant should be placed at the entrance of each house and be used before entering and after leaving the poultry house.	Verify footbath placement and presence of disinfectant and cleanliness of footbath.	25		
Security	Poultry houses or facilities may be locked to prevent unauthorized entry.	Verify house or facility security.	25		

Flock Visitation	Sick flocks/houses should be visited last. Flocks/houses should be visited in order of youngest to oldest.	Verify flock visitation procedure or policy.	25		
Pest Control 			125		
Rodent and Fly Control	Effective rodent and fly control programs should be in place.	Verify documentation of rodent and fly monitoring and control.	25		
Pest Activity	There should be no evidence of rodent or wild bird activity and potential entry points.	Verify no evidence of rodent or wild bird activity in or around houses. Look for potential areas of entry such as holes in housing.	25		
Interior and Exterior Cleanliness	There should be no non-essential items in or around the houses.	Verify interior and exterior cleanliness.	25		
Exterior Landscape Maintenance	Area within 100 feet of houses should be kept mowed. Ditches should drain adequately.	Verify mowed area around houses and no standing water in ditches.	25		
Feed Spillage	Feed spills should be cleaned up to prevent attraction of wild animals or pets.	Verify there are no feed spills under or around feed bins.	25		
Dead Bird Disposal 			50		
Proper Disposal	Mortality should be placed in a covered container or secured area.	Verify mortality in covered or secured area.	25		
Mortality Collection	Mortality should be collected last to prevent potential disease spread.	Verify mortality collection schedule.	25		
Miscellaneous 			75		

Outside Poultry	Growers and workers should not have any other poultry on their premises or where they reside.	Verify signed statements by growers or workers that they will not have other poultry or pet birds.	25		
Loose Birds	There should be no loose birds around the poultry houses.	Verify no loose birds.	25		
Poultry Movement	Poultry should not be allowed to leave or enter the farm except under company control.	Verify grower understanding of this policy.	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 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			825		

Nebraska Commercial Turkey Biosecurity



Commercial Turkey Biosecurity Guidelines

Practicing good biosecurity and farm management will help decrease the chance of disease on the farm. The first step to disease prevention is protection from exposure to disease agents. Strictly following the biosecurity guidelines below will help decrease the chance of disease. Poultry diseases are controlled by biosecurity, veterinary health care, complete vaccination programs, high-quality diet, enclosed housing, and high standard of farm and bird management. Disease can occur if a flock is challenged with a new strain of a virus, bacteria, and parasite or if there is a breach in biosecurity.

Biosecurity must be practiced at all times. All growers and workers should have documented biosecurity training. A biosecurity checklist should be posted or kept on each farm. Biosecurity measures should be audited frequently for compliance.

The main concepts of biosecurity are listed, reviewed below and presented in the DVD, "Biosecurity Training for Commercial Poultry Farm Workers" by USDA-APHIS.

The main concepts of Commercial Turkey biosecurity are:

- **Cleaning and Disinfecting**
- **Isolation**
- **Traffic Control**
- **Pest Control**
- **Dead Bird Disposal**



Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Kills germs that cause disease.
- Visitors, growers, and employees must wash hands before entering and leaving the farm. Acceptable methods include waterless gels, disinfecting hand wipes, or soap and water.
- Clean work clothes should be worn to prevent disease spread. Proper clothing requirements for visits to a commercial poultry operation are disposable coveralls, hairnet, gloves, and plastic boots. The disposable clothing should be disposed of on the farm before the individual leaves the premises.
- Farm workers should shower and wear clean clothes to work. Workers may be asked to change into work clothes on the farm.
- Growers and their workers living on the farm premises should have designated clothing to be worn while on the poultry farm. If a person leaves the premises they should change clothes, including footwear, before leaving.
- If a grower has employees who live off the farm premises, these employees should shower prior to coming to the farm and wear clothing designated, including footwear, for farm use only. Special care should be taken to ensure contamination (disease) is not brought to the farm from outside the farm premises.
- Hands should be disinfected before leaving the dressing area and before entering each house.
- Boots should be dipped in the footbath between each house.
- All equipment used inside the poultry houses should be cleaned and disinfected prior to entering and after exiting the houses. This includes equipment used for clean out and new flock set up. Equipment should not be shared between farms, unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.



Isolation

- Keep birds from germs.
- Keep birds away from objects or persons that can carry germs.
- Park away from poultry houses.
- Fence in the perimeter of the poultry operation and keep fence in good repair or a natural perimeter should be established around the farm. If anything from outside the area is entering the farm it should be considered a source for contamination and disease.
- Do not use open bodies of water such as a pond or lake as a source for poultry drinking water or for misting to cool the birds. Ponds and lakes can be contaminated with viruses such as AI from migrating birds.



Traffic Control

- Keep germs away from birds.
- Do not allow anyone to enter poultry houses, unless biosecurity rules are followed.
- All visitors must sign a visitor log book and indicate recent bird exposure. Visitors should have a purpose for being on the premises that relates to the proper care and well being of the flock. Anyone who needs to visit the grower or his agents who does not need to physically be on the farm should contact the grower prior to going to the farm and arrange to meet away from the farm.
- Post a biosecurity sign stating “no entrance” on all entrances to poultry housing areas. If appropriate, the sign should also be in Spanish.
- Vehicles upon entering and leaving the farm should have the tires disinfected.
- Footbath with disinfectant should be placed at the entrance of each house and should be used before entering and after leaving the poultry house. The footbath should be a minimum of 1” deep with the proper dilution of disinfectant. If the baths are located outside the house, they should be covered to keep rain and foreign matter out.
- Hands should be disinfected before entering and after leaving the poultry house.
- Doors to each house may be kept locked to decrease unauthorized entry.
- Visit sick flock last.
- Visit farms or houses in order of youngest to oldest flocks.



Pest Control

- Maintain satisfactory rodent and fly control programs.
- Keep doors shut and locked.
- Always look for evidence of rodents. Block holes and trap rodents or wild birds.
- Do not allow wild birds to nest on or around the poultry houses.
- Keep areas around houses clean to prevent rodent infestation. Remove all nonessential items from within and around the poultry houses.
- The area within 100 feet of the houses should be kept mowed. The ditches should be maintained to allow for water to leave the area and not puddle. These items will help limit the exposure to disease from mosquitoes and other pests.
- Keep animals and wild birds out of and away from the poultry houses. It is important to minimize animal activity around the poultry houses. This includes pets, wild animals, and other farm animals.
- Feed spills should be cleaned up promptly to minimize a food source for wild animals which can be carriers of disease.



Dead Bird Disposal

- Keep contamination away from the flock.
- Proper disposal of dead birds is essential for a good biosecurity program. If dead birds are to be left outside the house at any time, they should be placed in a covered container.
- Collect mortality last and dispose of properly to prevent spread of disease to other houses and to prevent pest activity.
- Wash hands after handling dead birds.



Miscellaneous

- Growers and poultry workers should not have birds of any type on their farm premises or where they reside. It is very important for all persons to restrict their contact with birds and people who are associated with birds. This contact could be at fairs, shows, bird hunting of any kind, emus, or playing with pet birds or geese. If contact does occur then wash clothes as soon as possible and clean vehicle inside and out.
- Growers and poultry workers should not visit other poultry operations.
- Collect and properly dispose of any loose birds outside the house.
- Workers should report sick birds, production decreases, or odd shaped eggs immediately to their supervisor.
- Do clean jobs, such as checking feed and water, first of the day.
- Do dirty jobs, such as collecting mortality, last of the day.
- Migratory birds may use this area as part of their flyway. If migratory birds are in the area, special care should be taken to avoid infecting the flock with diseases that may be carried by these birds such as AI.
- Anytime there is a change in labor, new employees should be trained on biosecurity.
- Poultry should not be allowed to leave or enter the farm, except under the control of the company that owns the birds. Poultry should not be sold or given away unless the grower is authorized to do so.



Know the Warning Signs for Infectious Diseases

- Diseases can be difficult to diagnose, but you can recognize potential problems and contact a veterinarian to diagnose the disease.
- Some turkey diseases are AI, Newcastle disease, Avian Pneumovirus, ORT, 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 Commercial Turkey Biosecurity Audit Checklist

The following checklist is provided to assist commercial turkey operations in following the **Nebraska Commercial Turkey Biosecurity Guidelines**. This audit checklist should be used in conjunction with the **Commercial Turkey Biosecurity Guidelines**.

This audit applies to the following company, complex or facility:

Auditor: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Date: _____ **Accompanied by:** _____ **Title:** _____

Summary:

Area	Max Score	Facility Score
Education and Training	125	
Cleaning and Disinfection	100	
Isolation	75	
Traffic Control	150	
Pest Control	125	
Dead Bird Disposal	50	
Miscellaneous	75	
Disease Signs and Mortality	50	
Reporting Disease	75	
TOTAL	700	
Percentage	100%	

Education and Training  <small>LOOK for Signs REPORT Sick Birds PROTECT Your Birds</small>	Objective	Verification	125	Score	Comments
Designated Management	Designated person or management group in charge of biosecurity practices.	Identify designated person or management group.	25		
Required Training	Personnel involved in live poultry production should receive sufficient training on biosecurity guidelines.	Verify that the company or grower being audited has a training program and that the training program has been completed by all personnel involved in live poultry production.	50		
Biosecurity Manual	Biosecurity Guidebook should be readily available for reference.	Verify that the Nebraska Poultry Biosecurity Guidebook is readily available for reference.	50		
Cleaning and Disinfection (C&D) 			100		
Hand Sanitation	Visitors, growers, and employees must wash hands before entering and leaving houses and farms.	Verify hand sanitation gel or clean running water and soap are readily available on the farm or facility. Verify hand sanitation procedures.	25		
Clean Work Clothes	Clean work clothes should be worn by workers and visitors.	Verify workers wear designated work clothes on farm and disposable coveralls, hairnets, gloves, and plastics boots are provided to visitors.	25		

Boot Disinfection	Boots worn on farm are disinfected before leaving the dressing area and entering each house.	Verify cleaning and disinfection materials are available in these areas and are being done.	25		
Equipment	Equipment used in houses should be C&D prior to entering and after exiting.	Verify equipment C&D procedures.	25		
Isolation 			75		
Parking	Vehicles when coming on to a farm should park away from the poultry house.	Verify that vehicles are parked away from poultry houses.	25		
Perimeter Fence or Natural Barrier	Fence or natural barrier around poultry facility should be maintained to prevent or discourage anything from the outside from entering the area.	Verify perimeter fence or natural barrier around poultry facility or houses.	25		
Water Source	Drinking or misting water should be from a clean source.	Verify water used in the poultry houses is from a clean source not from open bodies of water.	25		
Traffic Control 			150		
Visitor Log	Visitor log book is used for all visitors.	Verify visitor log book and that the entries are up to date and indicate recent bird exposure.	25		
Biosecurity Sign	Biosecurity or restricted entrance signs are prominently posted.	Verify signs are posted on all entrances to poultry houses areas.	25		

Vehicle Tire Disinfection	Vehicle tires should be disinfected upon entering and leaving farms.	Verify tire disinfection practices and procedures.	25		
Footbaths	Footbath with disinfectant should be placed at the entrance of each house and be used before entering and after leaving the poultry house.	Verify footbath placement and presence of disinfectant and cleanliness of footbath.	25		
Security	Poultry houses or facilities may be locked to prevent unauthorized entry.	Verify house or facility security.	25		
Flock Visitation	Sick flocks/houses should be visited last. Flocks/houses should be visited in order of youngest to oldest.	Verify flock visitation procedure or policy.	25		
Pest Control 			125		
Rodent and Fly Control	Effective rodent and fly control programs should be in place.	Verify documentation of rodent and fly monitoring and control.	25		
Pest Activity	There should be no evidence of rodent or wild bird activity and potential entry points.	Verify no evidence of rodent or wild bird activity in or around houses. Look for potential areas of entry such as holes in housing.	25		
Interior and Exterior Cleanliness	There should be no non-essential items in or around the houses.	Verify interior and exterior cleanliness.	25		
Exterior Landscape Maintenance	Area within 100 feet of houses should be kept mowed. Ditches should drain adequately.	Verify mowed area around houses and no standing water in ditches.	25		
Feed Spillage	Feed spills should be cleaned up to prevent attraction of wild animals or pets.	Verify that there are no feed spills under or around feed bins.	25		

Dead Bird Disposal 			50		
Proper Disposal	Mortality should be placed in a covered container or secured area.	Verify mortality in covered or secured area.	25		
Mortality Collection	Mortality should be collected last to prevent potential disease spread.	Verify mortality collection schedule.	25		
Miscellaneous 			75		
Outside Poultry	Growers and workers should not have any other poultry on their premises or where they reside.	Verify signed statements by growers or workers that they will not have other poultry or pet birds.	25		
Loose Birds	There should be no loose birds around the poultry houses.	Verify no loose birds.	25		
Poultry Movement	Poultry should not be allowed to leave or enter the farm except under company control.	Verify grower understanding of this policy.	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			825		

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