



Nebraska Poultry Biosecurity Guidebook

Live Poultry Sales



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Live Poultry Sales Biosecurity

Practicing good biosecurity and farm management will help decrease the chance of disease on the farm. Biosecurity away from the farm at poultry sales, auctions, and swap meets are just as important. Poultry sales, auctions, and swap meets should practice good biosecurity to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases during sales or meets. Organizers of these events should not allow sick birds to enter the sales or swap facility. The facility should be cleaned and disinfected after each event.

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 disease spread at poultry sales, auctions, and swap meets. Sales facilities should inform the participants of ways to prevent possibly bringing disease from the auction back to their birds. 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 DVD will help poultry sales facility owners and operators better understand the concepts of biosecurity.

The main concepts of Live Poultry Sales biosecurity are:

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



Keep Distance

- All birds that are brought to poultry sales, auctions, and swap meets should be examined for signs of disease before being allowed to be sold. The birds should be examined before they are placed in an area with other birds.
- If birds with signs of disease are identified, they should not be allowed to be sold and not allowed on the premises.
- Post signs at the place of sale stating that sick birds will be turned away from the sale premises.
- Keep a footbath at the entrance of the sale facility to decrease the tracking of disease into the facility.



Keep It Clean

- Poultry sales, auctions, or swap meet facilities should be cleaned and disinfected **before** each event.
- If birds are being handled by an auctioneer then clean hands with sanitizing gel before handling each lot of birds.
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies should be available for participants and the sales facility to use. Supplies should include water, soap, disinfectant, and brush for cleaning soles of boots or cages.
- Remove manure or mud from surfaces first or disinfectant will not work.
- Always keep bird enclosures and equipment that are used at the sales facility as clean as possible.
- 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 poultry sales participants from bringing disease to their birds from the sale facility.
- During poultry sales, auctions, or swap meets, announce to the participants to keep purchased birds separate from their other birds in a quarantine area for three weeks to one month after the sale event and watch for signs of disease.
- Also inform participants to avoid physical contact with their birds for at least a day after being around other poultry at the sale event.



- Provide hand sanitation areas around the sale facility for participants to disinfect hands.
- Sale facilities as a courtesy to participants could provide a wash area for vehicles to allow for cleaning after the sale event. A pressure washer is useful to clean tires and undercarriage and dislodge any dirt. Also suggest cleaning of interiors with a cloth and disinfectant, because disease agents can be transported by hands and feet.

Don't Borrow Disease

- The sale facility should allow use of the sale facility's equipment which has been cleaned and disinfected.
- Birds or equipment of other bird owners should not be used for other birds at the sale.
- Inform participants that if they plan to bring home equipment after the sale, clean and disinfect it before bringing it to their property where their 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 one 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 of birds at the sale should be reported immediately.**
- Signs of disease to look for are:
 - 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



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. Sales participants can take their 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 Live Poultry Sales Biosecurity Checklist

The following checklist is provided to assist live market poultry sales owners and operators in following the **Nebraska Live Poultry Sales Biosecurity Guidelines**. This checklist should be used in conjunction with the **Live Poultry Sales 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 sale facility:

Date: _____

Sale Facility: _____

Address: _____

Summary:

Area	Maximum Score	Premises Score
Education and Training	100	
Keeping Distance	100	
Keeping it Clean	150	
Hauling Disease Home	100	
Disease from Others	75	
Disease Signs and Mortality	50	
Reporting Disease	75	
TOTAL	650	
Percentage	100%	

Education and Training 	Question	Answer	100	Score	Comments
Training	Has the sale operator or owner read and understand the Biosecurity Guidebook?	Yes = 50 No = 0	50		
Biosecurity Manual	Is the Biosecurity Guidebook readily available for reference?	Yes = 50 No = 0	50		
Keeping Distance 			100		
Examination	Are all birds examined before entry to the sale area?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
No Sick Birds	Are sick birds turned away from the sale facility?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Policy Notice	Is a sign posted stating the no sick bird policy?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Footbath	Is there a footbath at the entrance to the sale facility?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Keeping It Clean 			150		
C&D Before	Is sale facility clean and disinfected (C&D) before each event?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Hand Disinfection	Does the auctioneer use hand sanitizer before handling a new lot of birds?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Dirt and Manure	Is dirt and manure removed from surfaces or equipment before C&D?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
C&D Supplies	Are C&D supplies available for general use at the sale facility?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Premises and Equipment	Is the sales area and equipment regularly C&D?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		

C&D After	Is sale facility C&D after each event?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Hauling Disease Home 			100		
New Bird(s)	Are participant informed to keep any new birds isolated from their flock for three weeks to one month?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Poultry Visitation	Are participants informed to avoid physical contact with their birds for at least a day after attending the sale?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Hand Sanitizing	Does the sales facility have hand sanitizing stations?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Vehicle	Does the sale facility have vehicle wash area?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Disease From Others 			75		
Equipment	Is the sale facility's equipment C&D?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Sharing	Are participants discouraged from sharing equipment and cages?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Outside Equipment	Are participants informed that they should C&D equipment before taking it back to their premises?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Disease Signs and Mortality 			50		

Mortality and Signs	Is it known how to report high mortality and sudden death immediately? Are common signs of poultry disease known?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Veterinarian	Is the name and telephone number of a local veterinarian known?	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	Is the contact information for the UNL-VDC known?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
USDA	Is it known that one can call USDA at 866-536-7593 to report poultry disease?	Yes = 25 No = 0	25		
Total			650		

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