



Nebraska Poultry Biosecurity Guidebook

Upland Gamebird

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Roots.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Upland Game Bird 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. Diseases can be contagious and can easily spread, so biosecurity must be practiced at all times. Diseases 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 and reviewed below. Additional information from the USDA can be found at [USDA APHIS | Defend the Flock - Biosecurity 101](#). A corresponding video is available at [Defend the Flock - Biosecurity to Protect Your Poultry](#).

The main concepts of biosecurity for upland game birds 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

- Control access to your upland gamebirds 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.

Don't Haul Disease Home

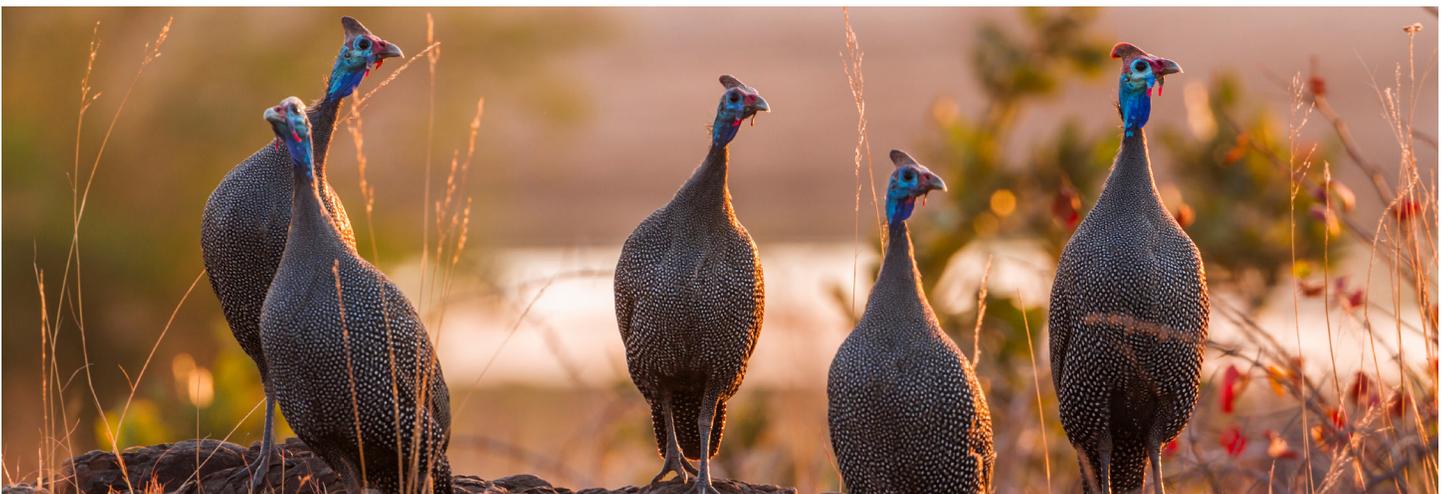
- Always be on the alert to prevent ways of bringing disease to your birds.
- The outside of a feed bag may be contaminated. Empty contents into a sanitized container and discard the bag.
- If your birds have been outside your premises at a show, fair, or exhibition keep them separate from your other 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 auctions, aviaries, and 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

- Use your own equipment.
- Don't share birds, equipment, or feed with other upland gamebird owners. This is very important.
- Crates used for transporting upland gamebirds should not be shared and should be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Any other equipment used for releasing birds should not be shared and kept clean.
- 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

- 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 should be reported immediately.

Signs of disease to look for are:

- Weight loss;
- Sneezing, coughing, gasping for air, nasal discharged, or greenish watery diarrhea;
- Listlessness, muscular tremors, drooping wings;
- Twisting of head or neck;
- Complete paralysis;
- Swelling around eyes and neck;
- Lameness, tumors; or
- Sudden death.

Report Sick Birds

- To report sick birds, contact your local veterinarian or contact the State Veterinarian's office at
- (402) 471-2351 or the USDA at 866-536-7593.
- 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) at (402) 472-1434.
- It is important to diagnose and stop a disease before it spreads.

Nebraska Live Poultry Sales - Biosecurity Checklist

The following checklist is provided to assist live market poultry sales owners and operators in following the **Nebraska Upland Gamebird Biosecurity Guidelines**. This checklist should be used in conjunction with the **Upland Gamebird 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 upland gamebird:

Date: _____

Sale Facility: _____

Address: _____

Summary:

Area	Maximum Score	Facility 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%	

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Education & Training	Question	Answer	Points	Score	Comments
Training	Have you, your family, and staff 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		

Visitors	Do you restrict visitors on your 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 Distance			125		

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Hands	Do you wash your hands thoroughly before handling 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		
Keeping it Clean			125		

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Outside Material	Is outside material disinfected before brought into 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		
Hauling Disease Home			125		

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		

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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 the 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			675		