



## **Poultry Biosecurity Self-Assessment**

Comprehensive and stringent biosecurity practices are essential to stop disease spread and keep your flock healthy. It's recommended that you go through this checklist as a self-assessment of your biosecurity for your flock and to highlight areas where you may be able to better protect your poultry. While this checklist is not an exhaustive list, it includes some relatively simple and inexpensive ways to prevent disease entry and transmission on your farm.

### **Follow a biosecurity plan**

- A biosecurity plan is in place
- The plan is updated regularly (minimum yearly)

### **Monitor bird health**

- Flock is checked at least once daily and observed for:
  - Birds that appear sick
  - Elevated or unusual mortality
  - If egg quality or production drops suddenly
  - A drop in feed consumption
  - High or low water consumption
- Veterinarian is contacted if anything unusual is observed

### **Restrict access to poultry**

- Biosecurity signs are posted
- There is restricted access to visitors, especially those who own birds
- Necessary visitors or service personnel wear clean footwear and coveralls (or disposable) and follow personal hygiene procedures including handwashing

### **Prevent contact with wild birds and other animals**

- Poultry enclosures are bird-proofed
- Bird nesting sites are eliminated
- A rodent control program is in place
- Feed spills are cleaned up promptly
- Feed is kept tightly sealed containers
- Vegetation and debris around facilities is minimized
- Pets are kept out of barns

- Water is drawn from secure sources that can not be accessed by free-flying birds or rodents
- New bedding is clean and has not had contact with wild birds or other animals

### Maintain poultry housing and yard

- Poultry are not kept near water bodies
- Standing water is drained
- The flock area or pen is cleaned and disinfected at least once each year
- Feeders and drinkers are cleaned and sanitized regularly
- Entryways are routinely cleaned and disinfected
- Entryway has an area where footwear can be changed or cleaned/disinfected before entering bird area

### Maintain personal hygiene

- Dedicated clothing and footwear is used for working around the flock
- Hands are thoroughly washed before and after working with the flock

### Manage risk caused by equipment

- Equipment that comes into contact with poultry is regularly clean and disinfected
- Equipment and tools brought to the farm are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to use
- Chicken transport equipment (carts, loaders, ramps) are cleaned and disinfected prior to use
- Equipment is held under conditions that prevent exposure to wild birds

### Manage risk caused by other poultry

- A flock health program is established and reviewed regularly with your veterinarian
- Birds are acquired from disease free sources
  - Flocks that engage in a health program
  - Single reliable sources with known disease status
  - Fertilized eggs or commercially vaccinated chicks
- Birds of different species are kept separately
- Birds are of same age or grouped by age
- Youngest birds are worked with first (or healthiest, if there is an issue in any younger birds)
- New or returning birds are quarantined, as disease can be present in apparently healthy birds
- Sick or quarantined birds are handled last and with separate equipment and clothing
- Mortalities are disposed of securely and in a timely manner

### Records

- Accurate records are kept for
  - Source of birds
  - Daily activities (feed and water consumption, production, mortality)
  - Health concerns
  - Vaccination history
  - Changes (acquisition of new birds, new feed, etc.)
- A visitor log is maintained