

Owner OBLIGATIONS

- ✓ Use signs to let people know you care about your birds health and safety
- ✓ Have visitors sign a visitor log or guestbook
- ✓ Register for a premise identification number and account • Call 310.FARM
- ✓ Avoid contact with other birds or bird owners if there are signs of disease in the home flock
- ✓ Wear clean clothes and footwear into the community
- ✓ Keep birds contained and covered to limit the possibility of disease from wild birds and waterfowl
- ✓ Keep coops clean and temperature controlled
- ✓ Learn to recognize signs of disease in birds and plan how to respond

Protect the health of your family and flock by preventing the introduction and spread of disease.



Why are biosecurity programs and practices important?

- › Diseases can spread from bird to bird and may spread from bird to people
- › Sick birds result in lost income due to decreased production, cost of treatment, death of stock and lost genetics
- › Minimize risk of disease transmission with an effective biosecurity program
- › Some bird diseases present a serious public health risk such as Salmonella, E.coli, Avian Influenza and Campylobacter
- › To keep food safe

BIOSECURITY: Keeping Small Flocks Healthy



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Growing Forward
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative



AB.VMA
Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

www.abvma.ca/biosecurity



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Promoting safe, healthy and humane animal and bird care

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BIOSECURITY is...

Actions, precautions and management practices that protect the health of one bird, a flock and/or a farm by preventing the transmission of disease through physical barriers and hygiene practices.



Doing little things right, everyday, to protect flocks health and safety.

How Does Biosecurity Benefit You?

Biosecurity...

- > Increases value and production by keeping birds healthy
- > Prevents financial losses from bird illness due to decreased production or death
- > Minimizes the risk of Salmonella, E. coli and Avian Influenza by keeping birds and people free from disease
- > Helps keep the food supply safe by keeping our birds free from diseases such as Salmonella



Complete a Risk Assessment

Completing a risk assessment will help clearly identify the areas that disease introduction and/or transmission may occur.

Risk assessments are available for flock caretakers on the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association website at www.abvma.ca/biosecurity. Risk assessments can help identify areas poultry and fowl owners can make small changes to protect their bird's health.



Practical Practices of a Balanced Biosecurity Program

Control people, animal and equipment access to flocks

- > Limit access to flocks and ask visitors to the birds to wear clean coveralls and boots that you supply
- > Build secure coops and runs to keep pests and wildlife out
- > Quarantine new birds from the main flock for a minimum of 28 days



Manage bird health

- > Wash your hands between flocks and after handling sick or dead birds
- > Follow withdrawal times for medications prior to consuming eggs or meat
- > Keep flock and individual bird records
- > Work with a veterinarian to design a vaccination and disease treatment plan and then follow it!



- > Monitor food and water intake and supply a nutritionally balanced diet tailored for production purposes
- > Obtain new birds from reliable sources; ask what their biosecurity program includes and consider how it fits with your plan

Follow sound operational practices

- > Clean *then* disinfect equipment and coops
- > Use the right disinfectant for the job, with the correct dilution and for the recommended contact time to ensure your effort and money are effective
- > Use personal protective equipment (e.g. disposable gloves, coveralls, masks) especially when handling sick or dead birds
- > Keep food sources covered to minimize pests



Resources and information are available to help you in planning and implementing your biosecurity program.



www.abvma.ca/biosecurity