



UNIVERSITY OF  
VERMONT

**EXTENSION**

COMMUNITY

4-H & YOUTH

ENVIRONMENT

AGRICULTURE

FOOD

CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

# Basic Practices for Healthy Poultry

*"As a poultry owner, you know how important it is to keep your birds healthy. By practicing biosecurity, you can help reduce the chances of your birds being exposed to animal diseases. 'Biosecurity' may not be a common household word. But, for poultry and bird owners it can spell the difference between health and disease. Practicing biosecurity can help keep disease away from your farm, and keep your birds healthy."*  
(From [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/birdbiosecurity/biosecurity/basicspoultry.htm](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/birdbiosecurity/biosecurity/basicspoultry.htm))

## **Practice Poultry Biosecurity By Following These important Steps**

### **1. Look for signs of sick birds and keep your distance:**

- Watch for signs of disease and unexpected deaths.
- Don't wait! Report sick or deceased birds by calling your veterinarian, the State Veterinarian (ADD phone number here) or USDA (at its toll-free number, 1-866-536-7593).

### **2. Keep it clean:**

- Wear clean clothes.
- Scrub your shoes with disinfectant.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before entering your bird area.
- Clean cages and tools.
- Change food and water daily.
- Clean and disinfect equipment.
- Remove manure before disinfecting.
- Dispose of dead birds properly.

### **3. Don't haul disease home from:**

- Feed stores
- Don't borrow or lend equipment.
- Been to a fair or exhibition? Keep show birds away from the rest of your flock for at least 2 weeks after the event.
- New birds should be quarantined away from your flock for at least 30 days.
- Don't mix birds and cages.

Adapted from "Biosecurity for the Birds" from USDA-APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) and available from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets website, [http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal\\_health](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health).

Find an avian vet through the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, <https://www.vtvets.org/eweb/startpage.aspx>

For more detailed information on Poultry biosecurity visit the USDA-APHIS website listed above.

Compiled by:

Wendy Sorrell, State 4-H Livestock Educator

Joe Emenheiser, Livestock Specialist

February 2015

Reviewed Oct 2020