



Biosecurity - Avian Species

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

What is Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)?

HPAI are influenza virus strains that are often fatal to domestic birds and can spread rapidly from flock to flock. All poultry owners are encouraged to always practice good biosecurity to prevent the spread of HPAI.

What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity refers to everything people do to prevent diseases from spreading to birds and people.

- Structural biosecurity: intentional physical construction and maintenance of coops, pens, poultry houses, family farms, commercial farms and other facilities.
- Operational biosecurity: practices, procedures, policies that are consistently followed by people.

Biosecurity is a team effort. Everyone involved in raising poultry must use structural and operational biosecurity to prepare for and prevent disease outbreaks throughout the United States. Without being careful, you can accidentally spread disease from farm to farm or bird to bird. You can also spread germs such as Salmonella that can impact human and animal health.

What you can do:

- **Keep visitors to a minimum.** Only allow those people who take care of your poultry to come in contact with your birds, versus allowing all family and friends. Keep track of everyone who is on your property at all times.
- **Increase hygiene practices.**
 - Wash your hands before and after coming in contact with live poultry.
 - Have dedicated clothing and footwear for use when working in/near your flock.
 - Clean and disinfect any poultry equipment fore and after use.
- **Protect your poultry.** Put control programs in place for wild birds (including their poop and feathers), rodents and insects. Reduce wildlife attractants, remove standing water, reduce food sources, close off access points, etc.
- **Look for signs of illness.** Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases. Quarantine sick birds right away.
- **Have sick birds?** If your birds are sick or dying, call a local veterinarian or refer to the avian influenza flow chart for reporting guidance at agri.idaho.gov.