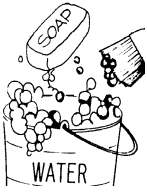


Proper Cleaning and Disinfection for the Health of Poultry

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Poultry viruses and bacteria can survive on tools, cages, and other equipment for days or even months. Contaminated equipment can spread disease from one group of birds to another. However, most viruses and bacteria can be killed with the proper use of disinfectants. This paper will explain how to properly use disinfectants in order to help keep your birds healthy.

- Feathers and feces must be completely removed from all surfaces. Use scrub brushes, water, and elbow grease. Be very critical. Disinfectants cannot kill viruses or bacteria if they are inside a clump of dirt. Therefore, all surfaces need to be cleaned before a disinfectant is applied.
- After the item is completely free of feathers and feces, apply an appropriate disinfectant and allow it to work for the recommended time.

Disinfectants

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

- Phenols such as One-Stroke Environ™
- Hypochlorites such as bleach

Preventing the Spread of Disease

Now that you know how to use disinfectants properly, here are a few key points to help control the spread of any poultry disease

- Make sure that any vehicles coming near your birds are not contaminated with litter or feces. Wash and disinfect the tires and wheel wells of all vehicles coming onto your property, even if they already look clean.
- Pay special attention to all bird hauling and manure handling tools, equipment, and vehicles.
- Put any dead birds that are going to CAHFS Laboratory in plastic bags. Put live birds in cardboard boxes so that the boxes can be thrown away instead of returning to your farm. Disinfect any vehicles returning from the Laboratory inside and out. Be sure to disinfect the floor mats. Do not let anyone who has been to the Laboratory return to your birds without showering and changing clothes first.
- Pests, like rats, insects, and wild birds and animals, can carry contaminated feces and feathers from one group of birds to another. When this happens, the pest is called a “vector.” It is very important to keep these vectors away from your birds. Rat traps, fencing, and insect controls should be part of your disease control plan. The area around your poultry house should be free of bushes or other piles of objects so that there is no shelter or food for vectors. All feed spills should be cleaned up promptly.
- Some poultry germs build up over time. To prevent this, poultry houses should be emptied of all birds and cleaned periodically. When empty, all surfaces of the house should be cleaned completely and allowed to dry before applying disinfectants. Apply the disinfectant twice, allowing it to dry between applications. The poultry house should be left empty for 2-3 weeks before new birds are brought in.