

Biosecurity

A. Isolation refers to the confinement of animals within a controlled environment. A fence keeps your birds in, but it also keeps other animals out.

1. Perimeter control. One of the best ways to do this is to install perimeter fencing. Perimeter fencing does not have to be expensive to work, but it does have to completely surround the birds and must include gates that are kept closed when not in use. If there are other birds on properties immediately adjacent to your flock, maintain a buffer zone between the two populations and prevent them from mixing.

2. Introduction of new birds to your flock. New birds can carry disease into your flock even if they are not showing clinical signs of disease. We recommend that all birds be tested for Newcastle disease, avian influenza and other disease agents important in that species before that bird is brought onto your property. A place to segregate new birds for at least 10 days from the established flock should be developed. Birds that develop any clinical signs of disease during this quarantine period should not be introduced. Traffic flow should always be from your flock to the new birds and never in reverse without a change of clothing and a shower.

3. Avoid contact with other birds. Anyone working with your birds or visiting your flock should not have had contact with other birds for at least 24 hours before they visit. Activities that should be avoided are hunting, visiting live bird markets or swap meets with birds, pet stores, and handling dead birds.

4. Prepare a plan for self-quarantine. If your birds get sick, stop all visits immediately; get birds into the laboratory or to your veterinarian for a diagnosis. During the time that you are waiting for a diagnosis, keep movement to a minimum. Human and equipment movement can easily spread disease.

B. Traffic control includes both the traffic onto your farm and the traffic patterns within the farm.

1. Visitor policy. Visitors should be strictly limited. Be selective about who you let onto your farm. Ask questions about where they have been and provide them with protective clothing. All visitors should sign a logbook so you can keep track of who has been on your farm. Put up signs to prevent people from wandering onto your facility.

2. Separate clean and dirty functions. Clean functions include bird handling, egg pickup, and feed handling. Dirty functions include manure pickup, and dead bird handling. One should not go from dirty functions to clean functions on the farm without a shower and a complete change of clothes. Usually, it's just easier to plan your day so that you can avoid going from dirty to clean. Employees and owners should wear specific clothes to work in clean areas. These clothes and shoes should not leave the clean areas.

3. Isolation of dead bird pickup, manure hauling functions. Trucks that pick up dead

birds and manure are usually doing the same thing at other farms. Because they are, they can easily spread disease agents. It is important to separate these activities completely from your birds. It is best if pickup can be in an area that is outside the perimeter of the farm or at least away from the flock.

C. Sanitation addresses the disinfection of materials, people and equipment entering the farm and the cleanliness of the personnel on the farm.

1. Vehicle disinfection. All vehicles entering a farm must be cleaned and disinfected. High pressure sprayers that can effectively remove organic material are critical to effectively remove and inactivate disease agents. Vehicle wheel wells and undercarriage must be fully cleaned and disinfected before entry to the farm and also upon exit. Usually, it is just easier to establish a place where vehicles can be parked outside of clean areas on the farm.

2. Equipment disinfection. Equipment coming onto or leaving the farm must be cleaned and disinfected. Equipment moving from dirty to clean functions must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

3. Cleaning and disinfection between flocks. A minimum of 2 weeks downtime is suggested between flocks. Complete removal of bedding, feed, complete cleaning and disinfection of the housing area and inspection is critical to preventing diseases.

Biosecurity Resources

Websites

http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/INF-PO_Forum/default.htm

<http://www.biosecuritycenter.org/>

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/poultry/408-310/408-310.html>

Biosecurity publications

http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/INF-PO_Biosecurity.html

Biosecurity for Poultry Flocks by Dr. Joan S. Jeffrey

http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/INF-PO_AI-Recommendations.pdf

Recommendations to prevent the spread and/or introduction of Avian Influenza by Dr. Carol Cardona

http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/INF-PO_AI-Recomendaciones.html

Recomendaciones para prevenir la dispersión y/o introducción del virus de la influenza de aves de Dra. Carol Cardona Dr. Carol J. Cardona Veterinary Medicine Extension January, 2003

Adapted from Dr. Carol Cardona, January 2001

