

Biosecurity For Birds: Q&A

Q What is “Biosecurity For Birds?”

A “Biosecurity For Birds” means doing everything you can to protect your birds from disease. There are three basic steps you can take to protect your flocks and to promote “Biosecurity For Birds”:

1. Look for Signs — Know the warning signs of bird diseases.
2. Report Sick Birds — Don’t wait! If your birds are sick or dying, call 1-866-536-7593.
3. Protect your Birds — When it comes to protecting your birds from disease, there are two things to remember — **Keep It Clean** and **Keep It Away**
 - a. **Keep It Clean** by washing and disinfecting hands, tools, cages, clothes, shoes and equipment after working with birds.
 - b. **Keep It Away** by keeping your birds away from other poultry when possible and by following proper steps when bringing birds in from outside farms or events.

Q Why should I care about Biosecurity?

A The U.S. investment in poultry is in the billions of dollars. Outbreaks of bird diseases such as avian influenza (AI) or exotic Newcastle disease (END) can spread and kill flocks quickly. An outbreak can happen anywhere and these diseases can spread to surrounding birds if not immediately reported and contained.

Q What is AI or Bird Flu?

A AI is “avian influenza” or bird flu is a highly contagious viral disease that can infect many types of birds.

Q What is END?

A END, or exotic Newcastle disease, is a contagious poultry disease that attacks chickens, turkeys and many other species of birds. An outbreak of END in California earlier this decade cost more than \$160 million in lost birds. Pet and poultry owners not only lost birds, but in some cases their livelihoods.

Q Can pet birds get these diseases?

A Virtually all birds, including pet varieties, are susceptible to AI or END.



You are the best protection your birds have.

Q What are the signs a bird is sick?

- A**
1. Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock (more than normal).
 2. Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing.
 3. Watery and green diarrhea.
 4. Lack of energy and poor appetite.
 5. Drop in egg production or thin-shelled eggs.
 6. Swelling around the eyes, neck and head.
 7. Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs (AI).
 8. Tremors, drooping wings, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (END).

Q Who should you call?

- A** Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call your local cooperative extension office, local veterinarian, the State veterinarian or State animal/poultry diagnostic laboratory, or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services offices toll-free **(1-866-536-7593)**.

Q Should I report a sick bird even if I am not sure it is AI or END?

- A** YES. Let the experts make the determination. We would rather people be cautious than let one of these highly contagious diseases go unreported.

Q How can I get more information on Biosecurity For Birds?

- A** You can find out more information by visiting the USDA website <http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>.

Q About APHIS

- A** APHIS stands for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.