

# Avian Influenza

## What You Need to Know



*Highly pathogenic avian influenza is being spread by wild birds and can cause massive losses in poultry houses. Infected waterfowl and poultry have been found across the East Coast. Take steps now to protect your flock.*

### Biosecurity

- Use dedicated clothing and footwear in the poultry house. Ideally, use a Danish entry system, in which you sit on a bench, leave the “dirty” boots on one side, and put on the “clean” boots on the other side.
- Keep visitors to a minimum. Wash the tires of vehicles that must come onto the property.
- Clean up feed spills and otherwise discourage wild birds from visiting the farm.
- Update your written biosecurity plan and submit to the state for review. This plan is necessary to obtain movement permits during an outbreak and to qualify for indemnity if your farm must be depopulated.

### Clinical Signs of Avian Influenza

- Sudden increase in mortality
- Decrease in water or feed intake
- Swelling or purple discoloration of the head, eyelids, or legs
- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing, sneezing or nasal discharge
- Diarrhea
- Decreased egg production
- Soft-shelled, thin-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Stumbling or lack of coordination

### Who to Call

*Unusual bird deaths, sudden production losses, and increases in the number of seriously ill birds should be reported to your state Department of Agriculture, or USDA, at the numbers listed below.*

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Delaware      | 302-698-4500, after hours 302-233-1480   |
| Maryland      | 410-841-5810, after hours 410-841-5971   |
| New Jersey    | 609-671-6400   |
| New York      | 518-457-3502   |
| Pennsylvania  | 717-772-2852, option 1   |
| Virginia      | 804-692-0601 or <a href="mailto:vastatevet@vdacs.virginia.gov">vastatevet@vdacs.virginia.gov</a> |
| West Virginia | 304-558-2214   |
| USDA          | 866-536-7593   |



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