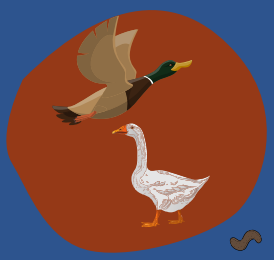
Protecting Backyard Flocks

From Avian Influenza

Cover chicken coops and runs to prevent comingling with waterfowl.

Wear dedicated clothing and shoes.

Wash hands before and after working with birds.



Keep all birds in coop to prevent contamination with waterfowl droppings.

Change food and water daily.

Remove birdhouses, feeders, and baths used by wild birds.

Clean and disinfect equipment in contact with birds or droppings.

After visiting places where poultry owners congregate, clean your boots before caring for your own birds.

What is Avian Influenza (AI)?

- AI is a virus carried by migratory waterfowl (ducks and geese).
- Domestic poultry (chickens, turkeys, fowl) are susceptible and will become very sick.
- The virus is believed to originated in Eurasia and spread into Canada and the Atlantic Flyway through wild geese and ducks.
- Migratory bird flyways cross the United States. Delaware is in the Atlantic Flyway.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS!

- ✓ Lack of energy and appetite
- ✓ Decreased egg production or softened/misshapen eggs
- ✓ Swelling of the head, eyelids, and comb
- ✓ Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- ✓ Stumbling, falling down, diarrhea
- ✓ Sudden death

HOW IS THE DISEASE TRANSMITTED IN BIRDS?

- Foot traffic
- Secretions from birds' mouths, nostrils, eyes, excrement
- Contact with infected droppings
- Movement of infected birds
- Contaminated clothing and equipment

If you have sick or dying birds in your backyard flock, contact:

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For more information, visit: https://de.gov/poultry