

# Protecting Backyard Flocks From Avian Influenza



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE



Cover chicken coops and runs to prevent commingling with waterfowl.



Wear dedicated clothing and shoes.



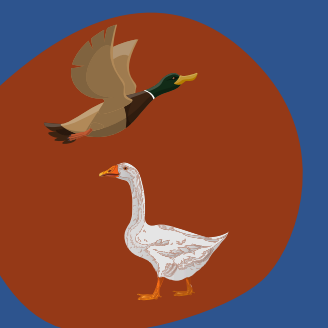
Clean and disinfect equipment in contact with birds or droppings.



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



Wash hands before and after working with birds.



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



Change food and water daily.



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

## 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

## 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.



If you have sick or dying birds in your backyard flock, contact: [poultry.health@delaware.gov](mailto:poultry.health@delaware.gov).