

## **Tips on Protecting Your Birds from Avian Influenza from NYS Department of Ag & Markets**

The Department of Ag & Markets is encouraging all poultry producers to review their biosecurity plans and take precautions to protect their birds. Poultry biosecurity materials and checklists can be found on [the USDA's "Defend the Flock" website](#).

To prevent avian influenza from infecting poultry flocks in New York State, poultry producers should:

- Discourage unnecessary visitors and using biosecurity signs to warn people not to enter buildings without permission;
- Ask all visitors if they have had any contact with any birds in the past five days;
- Forbid entry to employees and visitors who own any kind of fowl;
- Require all visitors to cover and disinfect all footwear;
- Lock all entrances to chicken houses after hours;
- Avoid non-essential vehicular traffic on-farm;
- Clean and disinfecting poultry transport coops and vehicles between hauling birds to processors and returning to the farm; and
- Report anything unusual, especially sick or dead birds, to the State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Visitors can help prevent the spread of HPAI by:

- Never entering a poultry farm without permission;
- Wearing clean clothes and shoes for any visit to a poultry farm;
- Staying in the parking lot on arrival and calling for an escort onto the poultry farm;
- Refraining from touching animals unless it's part of your job; and
- Reporting anything unusual, especially sick or dead birds to the State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Poultry owners should also take steps to reduce wild bird attractants by:

- Storing poultry feed in covered containers. Be sure to clean up any feed spillage immediately;
- Fencing off ponds where wild birds congregate and remove any areas of standing water;
- Keeping poultry waste and carcasses securely covered at all times;
- Refraining from walking or moving equipment through areas where waterfowl droppings may be present; and
- Limiting outdoor access for poultry during high-risk periods, such as migration season.

The Department continues to work closely with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on a joint incident response and is also collaborating with partners at the Department of Health and Department of Environmental Conservation. Additionally, Department officials have been reaching out to poultry and egg farms across the state to ensure best practices are being implemented. To contact the Department about a sick bird or an unusual bird death, please call (518) 457-3502.