



United States Department of Agriculture

Checklist for Managing Poultry Manure and Litter

When you raise or handle poultry, you'll need to deal with manure. Depending on how you raise your birds, you may also need to dispose of used poultry litter. Managing these materials properly is a key part of biosecurity. Avian influenza virus can survive in manure and litter for long periods of time, and these items can carry other contaminants, too.

So, how do you manage poultry manure and litter safely? You can take some simple steps to protect your flock every day and plan ahead to guard them from disease spread during an outbreak.

 Check the list on the back for tips to help keep your flocks healthy.



Report Sick Birds

If you see signs of illness, take action right away!

Veterinarian
Cooperative Extension Office
State Veterinarian/Animal or Poultry Diagnostic Lab
USDA

Phone Number

866.536.7593





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This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles

- Assess your site and options for removing, storing, and disposing of manure and used litter.** This might be onsite or offsite. The right approach depends on the species and number of birds and type of housing system at your facility.
- Define the scope:** What kinds of manure and litter do you need to manage at your site, and how much is produced over a given timeframe?
- Set up standard procedures that cover these basics:**
 - Collecting, transporting, storing, and/or using manure
 - Any State or local laws that apply
 - Environmental concerns
 - Wildlife, insect, and rodent control
- Develop a backup plan for long-term storage in a prolonged outbreak.** Spreading or storing manure and litter offsite may not be allowed depending on the risk of virus spread.
- Clean and disinfect** any vehicles and equipment used in manure removal **BEFORE** they arrive onsite.
- Remove all manure and litter from the poultry house and do a complete cleaning and disinfection **before adding any birds.**

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock.

