



Bird Health Awareness Week Roundup



Bird Health Awareness Week is part of the USDA's **Biosecurity For Birds** campaign, to promote awareness about the diseases that threaten bird health and ways to prevent the spread of infectious poultry diseases.

Bird lovers across the country marked the first observance of the week, November 1-7, by attending a highly popular and informative webinar sponsored by USDA\APHIS. Several states had their own activities in support of the week and APHIS announced the winners of the "Name the Healthy Bird" contest. Helpful hints on raising and caring for backyard poultry were tweeted throughout the week.

WEBINAR

More than 300 bird lovers and backyard poultry owners attended "The Word on Healthy Birds," a free webinar featuring radio personality Andy Schneider, aka "The Chicken Whisperer," and Dr. Martin Smeltzer, a USDA poultry veterinarian. Attendees learned facts from the experts on such subjects as:

- How to get started raising backyard poultry
- What the signs are of infectious diseases
- What the biggest threats are to keeping your birds healthy
- What resources are available to help you
- How to keep your flock safe from predators and disease

[Click here to view webinar](#) [Webinar Questions and Answers](#)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Various states took advantage of Bird Health Awareness Week to alert their audiences to activities and resources in their areas that help bird owners stem the spread of diseases.

For example, the University of Arkansas Extension Service celebrated the week with a barbeque and seminar focused on keeping birds safe and healthy. The free event, which featured several speakers, was held on Wednesday, November 3, at the University of Arkansas Pauline Whitaker Arena.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture announced the unveiling of its 2011 poultry calendar— filled with bird pictures submitted by the public and helpful biosecurity hints for all bird owners from animal disease experts. This is the second year for the popular calendar. Last year, about 20,000 were distributed through feed stores around the state. All messages in the calendar include a Spanish translation.

Michigan State University used the week to announce that they will conduct a Small Flock Poultry Workshop during their annual Agriculture and Natural Resources Week on March 8, 2011. The workshop will focus on incubation guidelines, embryo development, and avian anatomy. Learn more at <http://anrweek.canr.msu.edu/>



NAME THE HEALTHY BIRD CONTEST

More than 575 names were submitted to our "Name the Healthy Bird" contest and culled down to three most popular by our expert judges. The public was invited to vote online for their favorite choosing from: **Dr. Squawk, Healthy Harry, Captain Clean**

Visitors to the Biosecurity For Birds booth at the October FFA convention also had the opportunity to cast their votes in person for their favorite name. These ballots were considered along with the online votes. And the winner is ... **Healthy Harry!**

TWEETS

Beginning November 2, a tweet each day, featuring information and insights on keeping birds healthy, went out to subscribers to the APHIS Twitter account.

Here's a sample:

*If your birds are new
Don't put them with the older crew
Separate for 30 days
To keep infectious germs away
<http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>*

◀ **Top to bottom:** Andy Schneider, the Chicken Whisperer; Martin Smeltzer, USDA Poultry Veterinarian; Johnny Gunsaulis, Washington County (Arkansas) Extension Agent; Dr. Dustan Clark, Extension Poultry Health Veterinarian at the University of Arkansas; Kirsty Stultz and Robb Alleman, USDA employees in front of "Name the Healthy Bird" display at FFA Conference; and Shelley Petersen, contest winner, with one of her birds.