Could you send recording to me? I would like to show this 4-H poultry kids.
You are more than welcome to share this webinar (and our previous webinars) with other bird owners. The webinar is available here, and additional Biosecurity for Birds campaign resources are available here.

How can disease of the respiratory tract be avoided?
Poultry should be kept in a clean environment and provided proper shelter to prevent illness. You should also ensure proper ventilation if kept indoors. As always, use the 6 biosecurity steps to help prevent introduction of respiratory diseases.
Step 1 - Keep Your Distance
Step 2 - Keep It Clean
Step 3 - Don't Haul Disease Home
Step 4 - Don't Borrow Disease From Your Neighbor
Step 5 - Know the Signs of Illness
Step 6 - Report Sick Birds

I’m new to raising chickens. What’s the most important thing(s) I need to know about my flock’s health?
Biosecurity is the best way you can help protect your flock’s health. Use the six simple steps:
Step 1 - Keep Your Distance
Step 2 - Keep It Clean
Step 3 - Don't Haul Disease Home
Step 4 - Don't Borrow Disease From Your Neighbor
Step 5 - Know the Signs of Illness
Step 6 - Report Sick Birds

It is best to purchase your chickens (or chicks) from a known healthy source (hatchery or farm). Depending on the age of the chickens, purchase the proper ration from a reputable feed store, and be sure to provide them clean/fresh water every day. It is best to keep them housed (in a coop, etc.) as opposed to allowing them to free-range in the yard (to avoid predators and wild birds which may be carrying disease). Be sure to monitor their health on a daily basis and seek advice from your county extension agent or your veterinarian on the first sign of illness.

What is recommended feed for 1 year old layers?
One year old layers should be fed a nutritionally balanced layer feed. Most are between 15% and 17% protein and contain enough calcium for egg laying. They come in either pellets or crumbles.

I would like to know more about Marek’s disease. Why are birds vaccinated in the first 24 hours?
It’s generally best to vaccinate younger birds because they have a reduced immune status while they are younger, and more likely to die from the disease.

What is the best treatment for a chicken that has developed a chronic respiratory rattle and is otherwise healthy?
A “chronic respiratory rattle” may be a sign of a variety of diseases (mycoplasma, bacterial, or virus). Since treatment depends on a definitive diagnosis, it is best to seek advice from your county extension
agent or veterinarian to achieve a diagnosis. There is no treatment for viral diseases, but there are specific treatments for mycoplasma and bacterial diseases.

**Is a 2-6oz. clorox per gallon water a safe disinfectant?**
For a bleach solution of 5.25 – 6% sodium hypochlorite, the recommended dilution rate is 1:10 or 1 ½ cup per gallon water.

**Is it dangerous for pet ducks to mix with a backyard flock as it is for wild ducks?**
Yes – all waterfowl species can be carriers for avian influenza virus and not show clinical signs. They can spread the disease to other gallinaceous birds (chickens, turkeys, quail, etc.)

**What is the prevalence of Salmonella in backyard flocks? What is the prevalence of Salmonella in wildbirds? Does this vary by species and geographical location?**
Salmonella doesn’t have a “look.” All clean & healthy live poultry can carry Salmonella in their gut and make you sick. This includes backyard birds and wild birds.

**How are backyard flocks going to get some basic antibiotics for general common issues? I understand they will have to have a vet prescribe something with a new law coming up?**
The rules for antibiotic use in food animals, including poultry, are changing. Veterinary oversight will be required for the use of medically important antibiotics (ones used to treat human disease) administered to food animals in the feed or water. Certain medications that are used only in animals, such as coccidiostats, will continue to be available without a prescription from a veterinarian.

**I have a very nice large coop but I think it may need more ventilation. How do I know for sure and what steps do I take to increase ventilation?**
Many people ask how to determine the difference between ventilation and a draft. Well, go into your coop at night after the chickens have gone to roost. If you see their feathers moving that’s a draft. Find it, and eliminate it as soon as possible. You want good air exchange, but no drafts. Especially across the roost. If you need to add more ventilation, you can do so with roof vents, windows, and other openings. Just remember to install top of the line hardware cloth over the opening to prevent any predators from gaining access to your flock.

**How to bring in new flock members and stay secure?**
When bringing in new birds to your flock you should isolate them from your flock for 30 days so you can make sure the new birds are healthy. After the isolation period it is best to introduce the birds gradually by placing in adjacent pens with fence-line contact before they are placed together in the same pen.

Only allow visitors near your bird area if necessary. Provide footwear for them to wear into the bird pen area (rubber boots, or disposable boot covers), or have a disinfectant foot bath for visitors to use that has been kept fresh and changed regularly. Ask if they have been around any sick poultry at all in the last five days, and if so, you should not allow them access into your poultry area.

**I have mixed breeds, mixed ages flock of 14. How do I treat and prevent scaly leg mites?**
The coop should be thoroughly cleaned to remove the microscopic mites. One easy treatment is to soak the bird’s legs and feet in warm water and gently exfoliating the dead scales, and rubbing on an oil and then petroleum jelly mixture to suffocate the mites.
Are turkins at higher risk for disease since they have no feathers on their necks?
Not really. But they are at a slightly higher risk for getting chilled or cold easily. If you have turkins (naked neck chickens), take care to provide them with good shelter to avoid chilling.

Can a chicken that has received the Marek's vaccine as a chick--become a carrier for Marek's if it has been exposed to it at a show?
The Marek's vaccine in the US generally has a very high success rate at preventing disease. Generally your bird should be protected if was vaccinated at the hatchery.

Dust baths... you skipped it and I was truly wanting to hear about that. Many people add to their dustbath. What is really in a dustbath?
Chickens like to take dust baths. If one is not available for them to use, they will create their own by digging down into the soil to make a hole several inches deep so they can lay inside it and throw sand, dust, and dirt on themselves with their feet and wings. Why? This process actually helps control mites, lice, and other external critters. The most common homemade dust baths contain soil, dirt, and sand.

What are the pros and cons of keeping turkeys and chickens together in a large barn yard?
One major concern is Blackhead disease (Histomoniasis) in the turkeys. *Histomonas* can be carried by the cecal worm. Chickens that have cecal worms can act as a carrier and pass the disease to the turkeys. The disease can cause 50% or greater mortality in the turkeys. However, raising any turkeys outside can pose them at risk for this disease.

Typically, if chickens and turkey are raised together as chicks they should get along fine.

What do I do with ducks & chickens mingling together that are free range/pasture raised?
Separate the chickens and ducks with poultry netting and keep them in separate areas. Waterfowl like ducks and geese are known carriers of AI.