



Manage Wildlife To Prevent Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza is a very contagious disease that kills domestic poultry. Wild birds such as ducks, gulls, and shorebirds can carry and spread avian influenza viruses without any signs of illness. To protect your poultry, keep wild birds away from your farm. Here are some simple steps you can take today:



Secure Buildings

- Repair holes in buildings.
- Regularly check and repair damaged screens on windows and doors.
- Install netting or screens and use repellent gel or bird spikes to deter perching.
- Regularly inspect foam installation for signs of rodent or bird digging, chewing, or pecking.
- Wash away or remove old nests before each nesting season.*
- Install decoys and scare devices and move them often so wildlife don't get used to them.

* It is unlawful to remove nests with eggs or young birds in them.



Manage Ponds and Basins

- Prune or remove plants from banks of manmade water structures.
- Use wire grids, predator decoys, and scare devices to keep waterfowl away from ponds or basins.
- Use fencing to separate natural ponds from the active area around barns.



Reduce Food Resources

- Don't feed wildlife!
- Locate feed structures on a clean pad.
- Inspect pipes and connections regularly for leaks.
- Keep a broom and lidded garbage container at every feed storage area for quick cleanups.
- Reduce natural food sources by removing fallen fruit and mowing grass often.
- Don't pile used litter near barns.



Cover Waste

- Keep carcasses and compost piles covered at all times.
- Always close and latch dumpster and trash can lids.



Remove Standing Water

- Grade property to avoid pooling water. Fill or grade areas where water stands for more than 48 hours after a heavy rainfall.
- Don't walk or move equipment through or near standing water—this could track wildlife feces or other contaminants with the virus into your barns.
- Use French drains and culverts to carry water away from poultry houses.
- Never use untreated surface water for watering poultry or cleaning poultry barns and other facilities.

USDA and other experts recommend an integrated wildlife damage management approach. Some management methods that involve handling nests and eggs or the lethal removal of wildlife require specific expertise and authorizations. The lethal removal of native wildlife is regulated under Federal and State laws.



Need help managing wildlife on your farm? Call 1-866-4USDA-WS (1-866-487-3297).
To learn more about how to protect your flock from HPAI and other diseases, scan the QR code.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. July 2024 | APHIS-22-010

