



United States Department of Agriculture

# Checklist for Using a Perimeter Buffer Area

When caring for your poultry, you need to access everyday supplies and equipment. At the same time, you need to avoid carrying around germs that could make your birds sick. Having clear separation between your poultry area (where your birds are kept) and the rest of the world will help you meet both of these needs. You can establish a perimeter buffer area: a zone outside of your bird enclosures that gives you space to work in while caring for your birds, but is separate from the rest of your property. On small farms and in backyards, this might just be some ground around a coop or barn where you keep your feed bin and equipment. On larger farms, the perimeter buffer area might include feed bins, manure sheds, composting areas, egg rooms, generators, and pump rooms. Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or raise birds as a hobby, keeping bird-related activities within the perimeter buffer area—and non-bird activities out of it—can help keep your poultry from getting sick.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.

 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





# ✓ Checklist: Tips for Using a Perimeter Buffer Area

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.

- Establish the perimeter buffer area with enough space to complete all of your normal bird-related tasks** (except the removal of dead birds) without leaving the buffer area.
- Require any vehicle or equipment that enters the perimeter buffer area to be cleaned and disinfected** before entering and before leaving the buffer area.
- Include a map that clearly outlines the perimeter buffer area in your biosecurity plan.** List the rules people must follow when entering or leaving this area. Give training and post signs to remind people of the steps they need to take.
- Consider a locked barrier at the site entrance.** If this is not possible, place signs at the entrance to the perimeter buffer area to prevent unauthorized access.
- Keep non-essential people and items, including vehicles, from entering the buffer area.** Have a parking area outside the buffer area, with a clear entrance to the buffer area nearby.

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](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).

