



United States Department of Agriculture

# Checklist for Adding or Replacing Poultry

Starting out with healthy poultry is the best way to keep flocks safe from disease. That means buying your poultry from sources that participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP, [www.poultryimprovement.org](http://www.poultryimprovement.org)). Always practice good biosecurity to ensure that your flocks remain healthy and free of disease.

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 To Help Keep Your Flocks Healthy

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 make sure their site-specific plans follow the NPIP biosecurity principles.

- Only purchase or source poultry** from NPIP-certified breeders, hatcheries, and dealers. When sourcing replacement poultry, you can request a copy of the hatchery or source farm's biosecurity protocols.
- Confirm that the poultry you purchase** tested clean for the same diseases your current flock tested for.
- When purchasing poultry in person**, check for signs of good health and approximate age. Do not purchase birds that appear old or unhealthy.
- Always transport replacement or new poultry** in equipment and vehicles that are regularly cleaned, disinfected, and inspected. For commercial operations, the tractor/trailer carrying the birds should follow premises entry biosecurity protocols when entering the farm.
- Be sure to clean and disinfect** tools, cages, and any other equipment used for transport. Return empty cages to the trailer and then clean and decontaminate the cages before taking them to another site.
- Wear site-specific clothing**, including footwear, when loading or delivering poultry. For commercial operations, personnel loading poultry cages into the trailer should wear site-specific clothing or not enter the Line of Separation.
- Once home, quarantine the new additions** for 30 days. Check for sneezing, coughing, nasal drainage, swollen eyes, mites, lice, and other health issues daily.
- After combining new birds with your existing flock**, check original stock daily for any signs of illness. The stress of this change can cause an underlying illness to surface.
- To prevent bullying**, do not add young poultry to your existing flock until all the birds are about the same size.

## Did you know?

Mail-order hatcheries offer vaccines for day-old baby chicks. Check for needed vaccines in your area based on past disease outbreaks and what vaccines the hatchery administered.

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).

