



United States Department of Agriculture

Checklist To Report Unusual Mortality

While everyone who raises poultry works very hard to keep their flocks healthy and intact, the reality is that eventually you will encounter dead birds within your flock. But what is normal and when do you have a problem? It's important to know when you might have an issue and what to expect from there. Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or keep birds as a hobby, make sure you know when and how to report higher-than-normal or unexplained bird deaths.

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 Reporting Unusual Mortality

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.

- Know when to worry:** Some bird death is normal. A large percentage of dead or dying birds in your flock is not normal.
- Rule out obvious causes**, such as predators, weather issues, or other external factors. You don't need to report those bird deaths, but consider addressing the root cause so you can keep it from happening again.
- If you see signs of illness in your flock, make note of what you're seeing.**
- Report any signs of illness** or unexplained deaths to animal health officials right away. This will help prevent the spread of disease and protect neighboring flocks.

Look for signs of illness:

- *Reduced energy or appetite*
- *Lower egg production; soft-shelled or misshapen eggs*
- *Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and shanks*
- *Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs*
- *Difficulty breathing*
- *Runny nose, sneezing*
- *Twisting of the head and neck*
- *Stumbling or falling down*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Decreased activity*
- *Tremors*
- *Circling*
- *Complete stiffness*

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.

