



United States Department of Agriculture

# Checklist for Maintaining a Safe Water Supply

Having good quality water at your site is a crucial part of biosecurity. Your poultry need clean, safe water to drink, and you need it to cool your birds and clean your facilities and equipment without contaminating them. Water can carry disease agents, so the choices you make in how you source or treat your water are vital to protect your birds' health.



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

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

866.536.7593



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



# ✓ Checklist: Maintaining a Safe Water Supply

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.

- Use water from a contained water supply** (well or municipal system) for drinking, evaporative cooling, and cleaning whenever possible. This is the most biosecure water source for poultry.
- If you must use surface water, sanitize it first!** Ponds, streams, and other surface water can carry disease-causing germs. Sanitizing the water will kill these germs.
- Test any water used within your poultry buildings for bacteria.** Regular testing will give you a general idea of how clean your water system is. If bacteria numbers are too high (above maximum acceptable levels), you'll know you need to sanitize the water.
- Consult with experts when choosing water treatment methods.** The right methods vary based on many factors. For example, if your poultry's water supply contains certain vaccines, you need to use a water treatment that won't inactivate the vaccine. Experts can help you pick water treatments that are effective and won't harm your flock or water system.
- Write it down.** Include in your biosecurity plan the steps taken to provide uncontaminated water to your birds. This may include written water sanitation procedures, water treatment log sheets, and guidance for caretakers.
- If water treatment is not possible, include alternatives in your biosecurity plan.** Explain how you considered the risks of an untreated system and the steps you're taking to mitigate those risks.

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).

