



# Biosecurity for Multi-Species Farms

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a very contagious and often deadly respiratory disease of poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, and geese. It is often spread by wild birds and can make other animals sick, too.

You can keep the virus off your farm and protect all your animals when you follow biosecurity best practices on your farm. Simply put, biosecurity refers to everything people do to keep diseases away from animals, property, and people.



## Keep animals healthy

- Proper care is the foundation for preventing disease.
- Make sure your animals have clean water, good food, clean bedding, and appropriate vaccinations.
- Avoid spreading disease by working with young animals first, followed by older animals, and then newly purchased or borrowed animals. Work with sick animals last.



## Keep it clean

- Keep pastures, housing, and your farm clean.
- Dispose of manure, feces, and dead animals properly.
- Clean and disinfect equipment every day or after use.



## Keep germs away

- Give visitors disposable shoe covers to wear on the farm.
- Keep a separate pair of boots for use on the farm around your animals.
- Use a footbath with a disinfectant solution (4 ounces of bleach in 1 gallon of water) to clean footwear before entering the farm.
- Spray disinfectant on all vehicle and trailer tires before returning to the farm.
- Don't borrow tools or equipment from other farms.
- Don't use untreated water from ponds or streams.
- Isolate all new, borrowed, or returning animals for at least 30 days.



## Limit visitors

- Only allow people on farm who need to be there.
- Use only one entrance and exit for the farm.
- Keep a record of all farm visitors.



## Avoid mixing species

- Keep other animals and strangers off the property.
- Keep livestock and pets away from birds, including bird feed, litter, or equipment.
- Keep birds out of animal pens and barns.
- Keep all wild animals (including rats and mice) away from bird and livestock areas.



## Look for sick animals

Check animals regularly for the following signs of illness:

- Coughing (“barking”), sneezing, or trouble breathing
- Discharge from eyes or nose
- Difficulty moving, walking, or standing upright
- Lack of appetite
- Severe illness in multiple animals
- Sudden or unexplained deaths

If your animals look sick, take action! Isolate sick animals and report them to your veterinarian and/or State and Federal animal health officials. Your veterinarian will determine if your animals might have HPAI. They may contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture or your State Animal Health Official to test your animals.



## Write a farm biosecurity plan, then use it, review it, and update it

- Discuss biosecurity with your veterinarian, extension agent, and/or State or Federal animal health officials. Use the tips above as a guide.
- Write a biosecurity plan for your farm. The plan should note who is responsible for each area (for example, who cleans the footbath, who keeps the visitor log, who monitors the rodent control program, etc.).
- Review the biosecurity plan with everyone who works on the farm.
- Check that the plan is working. Complete regular walk throughs with the checklist. Amend and update the plan as needed.

## More Information

You can find biosecurity resources, including sample biosecurity plans, checklists, and species-specific biosecurity guidance at [www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock) (select Enhance Biosecurity).