USDA Expands *Defend the Flock* Campaign with New Resources for All Poultry Growers

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has expanded its *Defend the Flock* program to educate all poultry growers about best practices in biosecurity. This comprehensive public education program provides new resources to ensure that all growers have the information they need to keep flocks safe from infectious diseases.

APHIS is introducing the expanded program to combat the increasing risk of serious disease outbreaks. Biosecurity, which encompasses structural and operating practices to block diseases and the pathogens that carry them, has proven to be the most effective way to protect the nation’s poultry, property, and people.

According to Dr. Jack Shere, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, Chief Veterinary Officer, APHIS, “*Defend the Flock* taps into the pride, purpose and sense of responsibility all poultry growers share. The health of our nation’s poultry is a responsibility that must be embraced by all growers – from operators of large commercial enterprises to owners of small backyard flocks. This program will rally commercial growers and backyard enthusiasts to adopt best practices in biosecurity and keep our flocks safe from infectious diseases.”

The *Defend the Flock* program includes checklists, videos, and other resources that reflect the knowledge, insights, and experience of USDA, veterinarians, poultry owners, growers, scientists, and other experts. All *Defend the Flock* materials are available at no charge 24/7 at the *Defend the Flock* Resource Center. For more information on the program, visit [**usda.aphis.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock**](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock)**.**

Follow ***Defend the Flock*** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** for practical tips about keeping poultry healthy and new additions to the Resource Center.