



United States Department of Agriculture

Checklist To Protect Against Wild Birds, Rodents, and Insects

Food, water, and shelter in areas where domestic birds live are a magnet for wild birds, rodents, and insects. It's crucial to protect your poultry from the germs and diseases these pests can carry: mites and other parasites, viruses like avian influenza, bacteria such as Salmonella and Campylobacter, or other disease agents. Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or keep birds as a hobby, make sure everyone with access to your flock follows biosecurity practices to keep these threats away.

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 be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- Understand what poses a disease risk:** it's not just the wild birds and pests themselves. Feathers, nests, feces, and other organic materials can also carry disease. These items can come in contact with your flock through poultry enclosures, feed and water supplies, and even vehicles at your property.
- Check coops, pens, and poultry houses regularly** for areas that allow birds to perch, nest, or enter. These include extended roof eaves, rooftop ventilation, overhead wires, torn screens, holes, and broken door openings. Concrete aprons around building walls deter burrowing animals.
- Sweep away old nests before nesting season**—birds will return to the same nests year after year.
- Clean and disinfect poultry enclosures.** This includes removing soiled litter and throwing it away. Sick birds can easily contaminate straw and other bedding.
- Don't give wild birds, rodents, and insects a free lunch!** Remove spilled or uneaten feed right away, and make sure feed storage units are secure and free of holes.
- Protect your flock's water supply.** Make sure wild birds, rodents, and other pests can't access it. And if you can, use a municipal water supply or treated well water so you know it's clean.
- Don't walk through or drive trucks, tractors, or equipment** in areas where waterfowl or other wildlife feces may be. If you can't avoid this, clean your shoes, vehicle, and/or equipment thoroughly to prevent bringing disease agents back to your flock.
- Know the warning signs of poultry disease,** like changes in how much your birds eat or drink, increased deaths in your flock, or general malaise.

Be sure to:

Find out when wild bird migration season is in your area. Be extra careful during this time to protect your flock from infectious diseases. If you find native wild bird nests with eggs or young in them, contact your cooperative extension service.

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.

