

# BACKYARD POULTRY

## AVIAN INFLUENZA BIOSECURITY ADVICE

### Q. Why is good biosecurity important?

To protect your poultry from avian influenza you need to prevent your birds from coming into contact with potentially infected wild birds, their faeces and other secretions. Good biosecurity measures will reduce the risk of introduction of avian influenza.

Disease control in small backyard flocks across the country is not only important to those small flocks, but also to protect the high health status of the larger national flock.

In the event of an outbreak of avian influenza in a backyard flock, potentially damaging disease movement restrictions will apply for all poultry in the surrounding area, and the ability of commercial companies to export poultry or poultry products may be affected.

**If you work on a commercial poultry farm, do not keep poultry at home, as you could spread disease from one flock to another.**

### Q. What are the most important biosecurity measures you can take to prevent avian influenza?

1. Prevent direct wild bird contact with poultry, e.g. use of netting
2. Prevent wild bird contact with poultry feed and bedding
3. Provide potable drinking water (not water that could have been contaminated by wild birds e.g. not lake or pond water)
4. Use designated clothing and footwear for attending and looking after your birds
5. Wash and disinfect your hands before and after looking after your birds
6. Keep different poultry species separated (in particular ducks and geese should be separated from other poultry species)
7. Prevent direct contact of poultry with droppings from flying wild birds e.g. cover housing using canvas or tarpaulin
8. Keep the environment clean and unattractive to wild birds, e.g. keep grass cut, use scarecrows
9. Prevent rodents, pets and unnecessary personnel from having contact with poultry
10. Check your birds regularly for signs of illness
11. Only buy birds from a known reputable source - isolate any newly introduced poultry for 2 weeks if possible, and attend to your own birds before the new birds
12. Clean and disinfect any equipment before use
13. Provide only commercial feed (it is illegal to feed farmed animal species with food waste) and clean up any food spills

Avian Influenza Information April 2017

Further information on avian influenza can be found at:

[http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian\\_influenza/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/)

