



Avian Influenza Prevention

Avian Influenza (flu) is a disease found in wild and domestic birds. Although wild waterfowl rarely show signs of the disease, they can shed the virus into the environment through their oral and nasal secretions and feces. The viruses can cause severe illness and death in domestic birds.

Avian flu is a highly contagious disease, and can be devastating for poultry growers. There are two forms of Avian flu in poultry. One is severe, and the other is milder. The symptoms of Avian flu are varied depending on the form of flu present in the poultry. All cases of infection require laboratory confirmation. The most common symptoms in poultry include: depression and decreased activity, decreased feed consumption, decreased egg production, coughing, sneezing, wet eyes, huddling, and ruffled feathers.

How to Prevent Avian Influenza

The best way to prevent Avian flu is to practice good BioSecurity measures. You can build upon these measures with the addition of some simple wildlife management practices around your farm.

They include:

- Remove standing water;
 1. Grade property to avoid pooling of water,
 2. Fill areas where water stands for more than 48 hours; and
 3. Avoid walking or moving equipment in areas close to standing water.
- Manage risks at ponds and basins
 1. Do not use untreated surface water for watering poultry, or cleaning poultry barns, or other facilities;
 2. Consider removing vegetation from the banks of man-made water structures;
 3. Use deterrent techniques to keep waterfowl from using water bodies near poultry barns; and
 4. Use fencing to separate natural ponds or vegetation areas from the active areas around barns.
- Reduce Food Sources
 1. Do not feed wildlife;
 2. Locate feed structures on a clean pad;
 3. Inspect pipes and connections regularly for leaks;
 4. Keep a broom and lidded garbage container at every feed storage area;
 5. Mow frequently;
 6. Do not pile used litter near barns; and
 7. Remove fallen fruit.
- Cover Waste
 1. Keep carcasses covered at all times; and
 2. Close and latch dumpster and trash can lids.
- Remove perches, plug holes
 1. Repair holes and tears in barn walls;
 2. Remove unnecessary ledges or horizontal surfaces;
 3. Install exclusionary netting, screens, and perch deterrents, such as repellent gel or bird spikes;
 4. Before nesting season make sure to wash away or remove old nests; and
 5. Inspect foam insulation for signs of rodent or bird digging, chewing or pecking.

