

# Biosecurity Tips for Backyard and Small Flock Owners

## How you can protect your birds from Avian Influenza

Raising poultry species, either for food or as a hobby, is a part of Prince Edward Island's agricultural heritage. However, to minimize the risks this poses to the poultry industry of PEI, bird owners should recognize and follow good biosecurity practices.

Avian Influenza (AI) is a contagious viral infection which can affect several species of food-producing birds (chickens, turkeys, pheasants, etc.), as well as exotic and wild birds.



Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Aquaculture

### How does it spread?

- AI can spread from country to country through migratory birds which can carry the disease.
- It can also spread from farm to farm through exposure to other birds.
- AI also can be transported by humans on their clothing, shoes or via contaminated items such as used equipment.

### If your birds demonstrate the following signs of Avian Influenza

- lack of energy and appetite
- coughing, sneezing, nervousness
- diarrhea
- swelling of head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- sudden death

**Immediately contact your local veterinarian or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (902) 566-7290.**

### What can you do to prevent the spread of disease?

- Do not allow your birds to have access to ponds that are frequented by wild ducks and geese.
- Use penning or fencing to limit the range of the birds and to restrict access by other birds and animals both domestic and wild.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect any used equipment that you buy before putting in your barn.
- Use specific footwear and clothing for the poultry barn only.
- Thoroughly wash your hands after exposure or contact with poultry.
- If your birds are outside, feed them inside so that wild waterfowl are not attracted.
- If you cannot feed them inside, take measures, such as netting or wire fencing, to prevent wild birds from accessing your feeders.

### How is PEI preparing for an outbreak of Avian Influenza?

Since early 2005, the PEI Poultry Emergency Response Team has worked together to develop and test a response plan and resource manual. This team consists of representatives from the registered egg and broiler industries, purebred poultry fanciers, turkey, agri-business sectors as well as provincial and federal government.

You can assist in the effort to prepare for an outbreak of Avian Influenza by calling **the PEI Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture at 902-368-5654 to identify your farm as keeping poultry.**