



# Protect Your Poultry

## *Avian Influenza*



## Preventing Infection

Avian influenza can be introduced into domestic poultry through several routes of transmission. Strict on-farm and personal biosecurity practices protect poultry operations of any size.

- Keep poultry in **closed** poultry houses
- Keep wild birds and their feces away from poultry and poultry feed
- Seal poultry house attics and cover ventilation openings with screens
- Thoroughly and routinely clean all equipment, vehicles, including service vehicles, clothing and footwear before and after coming into contact with poultry
- Ensure proper hygiene practices for all persons coming into contact with poultry
- Maintain high sanitation standards in and around poultry houses
- Isolate or avoid introducing new birds into existing poultry flocks if their health status is unknown
- Limit access to poultry houses, including farm workers, feed suppliers, poultry veterinarians, catching crews, sawdust and shavings suppliers, agricultural service personnel and casual visitors
- Avoid using water in poultry houses contaminated with feces from wild birds
- Ensure thorough cleaning and disinfection for all cages transporting birds

For further information, please visit the CFIA Web site at:

[www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/avflue.shtml](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/avflue.shtml)

- Maintain a log of all visitors coming into contact with poultry

## Detecting Infection

Infected birds may show a variety of clinical signs.

- Lack of energy and appetite
- Drop in production of eggs, many of which are soft-shelled or shell-less
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Coughing, sneezing and nervous signs
- Diarrhea
- Sudden death
- Lack of coordination

If you suspect that poultry may be infected, immediately contact your veterinarian, your provincial ministry of agriculture, or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office in your area:

**Atlantic Area:** (506) 851-7400

**Quebec Area:** (514) 283-8888

**Ontario Area:** (519) 837-9400

**Western Area:** (403) 292-4301

My veterinarian's phone number: