

Help prevent avian influenza in Mississippi



Currently, avian influenza (AI) is not a threat to human health or food safety in Mississippi, but wild birds (especially migrating waterfowl) pose a risk to backyard flocks and the state's nearly \$3 billion commercial poultry industry.

- Biosecurity is the key to preventing the spread of the disease.
- Wash hands before entering and when leaving chicken areas.
- Wear dedicated footwear or plastic boots when working with chickens.
- Change clothes before caring for chickens after trips to any location where other poultry workers could have been.
- Don't mix new birds with existing flocks without quarantining them for 30 days.
- Purchase new birds only from known NPIP-certified healthy flocks instead of locations where different bird species of unknown origins are comingled together, increasing the disease risk.



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Watch for the following symptoms in flocks:

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Coughing
- Nasal discharge
- Watery or green diarrhea
- Swelling around the head and neck
- Lethargy
- Purple discoloration of wattles, combs and legs
- Decreased egg production
- Misshapen eggs
- Twisted neck
- >10% of flock showing disease symptoms all at once



Call the toll-free hotline with questions and concerns or to report suspected cases in Mississippi.

888.722.3106 • <http://www.extension.msstate.edu/avian-flu>