



United States Department of Agriculture

# Checklist for Cleaning and Disinfecting Poultry Enclosures

Keeping poultry houses, coops, and other enclosures clean is one of the best ways to prevent germs from spreading among poultry flocks. A thorough cleaning, and then applying disinfectant, takes time. But the process is vital to stop disease spread and keep our flocks healthy.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.



Check the list on the back for tips to help keep your flocks healthy.



## Report Sick Birds

If you see signs of illness, take action right away!

Veterinarian  
Cooperative Extension Office  
State Veterinarian/Animal or Poultry Diagnostic Lab  
USDA

Phone Number

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866.536.7593





# ✓ Checklist: Tips To Help Keep Your Flocks Healthy

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- Wear personal protective equipment** or clothing and shoes that you only use when caring for your poultry. This includes boot covers or boots that can be disinfected. Change into fresh protective gear between poultry houses or coops.
- Enclosures must be empty for a thorough cleaning.** If you have a poultry house, wait until the house is empty to start the cleaning process. If you have a coop or other type of enclosure, move the birds to a separate area before cleaning.
- Remove all litter, manure, and other debris.**
- “Dry” clean all areas**—brush, scrape, and shovel off manure, feathers, and other materials. Disinfectant will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.
- “Wet” clean all surfaces**—scrub with water and detergent. Work from top to bottom and back to front.
- Rinse all surfaces carefully with water.**
- Apply disinfectant** according to the directions on the label. Be sure to use a disinfectant that is registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and indicates that it is effective against avian influenza and other poultry diseases.
- Leave the enclosure empty** until it is completely dry. Use fans and/or open doors and windows to help speed the drying process. Wet surfaces can be harmful to poultry.
- When you’re done, remove and discard** your protective gear. If using dedicated clothing and boots, change clothing and clean and disinfect your boots.
- Wash your hands thoroughly** with soap and water. Wash and dry your dedicated clothing.

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).







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# Checklist for Equipment and Vehicles

Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or keep birds as a hobby, you can help protect the Nation's poultry by keeping your equipment and vehicles clean and germ-free. Make sure everyone who comes in contact with your flock knows and follows all of the procedures to avoid spreading germs and diseases.

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- Clean equipment and vehicles** with soap and water before and after they come in contact with your flock. Be sure to spray the tires and undercarriage of vehicles, where contact with infectious agents is most likely. Germs can survive months—or even years—in small spaces that are hard to clean.
- Do not share tools, poultry supplies, or lawn and garden equipment** with other flock owners or neighbors. If you must, be sure to clean and disinfect the items before they reach your property and before returning them.
- Establish procedures for cleaning and disinfecting equipment and vehicles.** Don't be afraid to change these procedures if you see a problem or if something's just not effective or practical. There's always room for improvement.
- Give clear and consistent instructions** to everyone who handles your equipment or vehicles.
- Define paths where trucks, vehicles, and other equipment** can travel to access your poultry area. This will help limit the spread of germs and disease.
- Know the warning signs of poultry disease,** like changes in how much your birds eat or drink, increased deaths in your flock, or general malaise.

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# Checklist for Personnel and Visitors

Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or keep birds as a hobby, you and everyone who cares for your flock have a role in keeping the Nation's poultry healthy. To prevent the spread of disease, limit access to your birds and property. Everyone who comes into contact with your flock, including visitors and family members, should use personal protective equipment to maintain biosecurity.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.

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- Maintain routines** so that everyone who comes into contact with your flock follows the same procedures. Don't be afraid to change these procedures if you see a problem or if something's just not effective or practical. There's always room for improvement.
- Offer regular training on biosecurity practices** to your current employees and any new hires. Training increases compliance and helps make sure everyone follows procedures consistently.
- Use personal protective equipment** like washable footwear or shoe covers, gloves, coveralls, and hair coverings when handling birds. These items should be worn only while caring for your poultry—never elsewhere—and be changed between bird enclosures to prevent disease spread.
- Give visitors and family members** personal protective equipment to wear when they are in contact with your birds.
- Always ask visitors** if they've been in contact with wild birds or pet birds or if they have their own poultry. If so, they should not go near your flock. Some avian disease agents can survive in a person's nose, without actually infecting the person, for 2 days.
- Clean and disinfect equipment** to remove feces, feathers, and litter. Disease agents can survive for months inside these organic materials, so make sure nothing is tracked into or out of poultry houses or pens.
- Do not share tools, poultry supplies, or lawn and garden equipment** with other flock owners or neighbors. If you must, be sure to clean and disinfect the items before they reach your property and before returning them.
- Know the warning signs of poultry disease**, like changes in how much your birds eat or drink, increased deaths in your flock, or general malaise.

## Did you know?

*Personal protective equipment stops disease spread in two crucial ways: 1, it covers up any germs you're already carrying, and 2, it traps any new germs you've picked up so you don't spread them to the next enclosure.*

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# Checklist To Protect Against Wild Birds, Rodents, and Insects

Food, water, and shelter in areas where domestic birds live are a magnet for wild birds, rodents, and insects. It's crucial to protect your poultry from the germs and diseases these pests can carry: mites and other parasites, viruses like avian influenza, bacteria such as Salmonella and Campylobacter, or other disease agents. Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or keep birds as a hobby, make sure everyone with access to your flock follows biosecurity practices to keep these threats away.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.



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- Understand what poses a disease risk:** it's not just the wild birds and pests themselves. Feathers, nests, feces, and other organic materials can also carry disease. These items can come in contact with your flock through poultry enclosures, feed and water supplies, and even vehicles at your property.
- Check coops, pens, and poultry houses regularly** for areas that allow birds to perch, nest, or enter. These include extended roof eaves, rooftop ventilation, overhead wires, torn screens, holes, and broken door openings. Concrete aprons around building walls deter burrowing animals.
- Sweep away old nests before nesting season**—birds will return to the same nests year after year.
- Clean and disinfect poultry enclosures.** This includes removing soiled litter and throwing it away. Sick birds can easily contaminate straw and other bedding.
- Don't give wild birds, rodents, and insects a free lunch!** Remove spilled or uneaten feed right away, and make sure feed storage units are secure and free of holes.
- Protect your flock's water supply.** Make sure wild birds, rodents, and other pests can't access it. And if you can, use a municipal water supply or treated well water so you know it's clean.
- Don't walk through or drive trucks, tractors, or equipment** in areas where waterfowl or other wildlife feces may be. If you can't avoid this, clean your shoes, vehicle, and/or equipment thoroughly to prevent bringing disease agents back to your flock.
- Know the warning signs of poultry disease,** like changes in how much your birds eat or drink, increased deaths in your flock, or general malaise.

## Be sure to:

*Find out when wild bird migration season is in your area. Be extra careful during this time to protect your flock from infectious diseases. If you find native wild bird nests with eggs or young in them, contact your cooperative extension service.*

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# Checklist for Adding or Replacing Poultry

Starting out with healthy poultry is the best way to keep flocks safe from disease. That means buying your poultry from sources that participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP, [www.poultryimprovement.org](http://www.poultryimprovement.org)). Always practice good biosecurity to ensure that your flocks remain healthy and free of disease.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.

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# ✓ Checklist: Tips To Help Keep Your Flocks Healthy

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- Only purchase or source poultry** from NPIP-certified breeders, hatcheries, and dealers. When sourcing replacement poultry, you can request a copy of the hatchery or source farm's biosecurity protocols.
- Confirm that the poultry you purchase** tested clean for the same diseases your current flock tested for.
- When purchasing poultry in person**, check for signs of good health and approximate age. Do not purchase birds that appear old or unhealthy.
- Always transport replacement or new poultry** in equipment and vehicles that are regularly cleaned, disinfected, and inspected. For commercial operations, the tractor/trailer carrying the birds should follow premises entry biosecurity protocols when entering the farm.
- Be sure to clean and disinfect** tools, cages, and any other equipment used for transport. Return empty cages to the trailer and then clean and decontaminate the cages before taking them to another site.
- Wear site-specific clothing**, including footwear, when loading or delivering poultry. For commercial operations, personnel loading poultry cages into the trailer should wear site-specific clothing or not enter the Line of Separation.
- Once home, quarantine the new additions** for 30 days. Check for sneezing, coughing, nasal drainage, swollen eyes, mites, lice, and other health issues daily.
- After combining new birds with your existing flock**, check original stock daily for any signs of illness. The stress of this change can cause an underlying illness to surface.
- To prevent bullying**, do not add young poultry to your existing flock until all the birds are about the same size.

## Did you know?

*Mail-order hatcheries offer vaccines for day-old baby chicks. Check for needed vaccines in your area based on past disease outbreaks and what vaccines the hatchery administered.*

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# Checklist for Using a Line of Separation

Poultry diseases are caused by tiny viruses, bacteria, and other microscopic particles. They can be everywhere, so it's important to avoid moving or spreading them on your clothes, shoes, or equipment. The best way to do this is to have clear separation between your poultry area (where your birds are kept) and the rest of the world. A line of separation is a functional line separating the poultry house or enclosure (and the poultry inside) from exposure to potential disease sources. Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or keep birds as a hobby, using a line of separation will protect your birds' health.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.

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# ✓ Checklist: Tips for Using a Line of Separation

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- Define your line of separation.** Include your entire poultry house/enclosure and any outdoor access areas. Have only one entry to better control who and what crosses the line. If possible, mark the line with colored tape.
- If your poultry flock has outdoor access that isn't enclosed, a line of separation is still encouraged.**
- In your biosecurity plan, draw the boundaries for your poultry areas and clearly outline what caretakers, visitors, or suppliers must do when crossing it.** This includes how to move birds, personal items, food, vehicles, equipment, and supplies. Give training on the procedures.
- At your entry point, include a place to change out of footwear and outer clothing before entering.** On the inside, have a place to put on site-specific footwear and outer clothing after crossing the line of separation.
- Post signs at the entry point reminding everyone of the steps they need to take to cross the line of separation.**
- Provide site-specific coveralls, footwear, and cleaning/disinfecting supplies.**
- Have a sink with running water and soap or hand sanitizer at the entry point.** Post signs reminding people to clean their hands.
- Keep an entry logbook.** List who or what crosses into your poultry area (people, poultry, food, vehicles, equipment) and when those items enter and exit.

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# Checklist To Report Unusual Mortality

While everyone who raises poultry works very hard to keep their flocks healthy and intact, the reality is that eventually you will encounter dead birds within your flock. But what is normal and when do you have a problem? It's important to know when you might have an issue and what to expect from there. Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or keep birds as a hobby, make sure you know when and how to report higher-than-normal or unexplained bird deaths.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.

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# ✓ Checklist: Tips for Reporting Unusual Mortality

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- Know when to worry:** Some bird death is normal. A large percentage of dead or dying birds in your flock is not normal.
- Rule out obvious causes**, such as predators, weather issues, or other external factors. You don't need to report those bird deaths, but consider addressing the root cause so you can keep it from happening again.
- If you see signs of illness in your flock, make note of what you're seeing.**
- Report any signs of illness** or unexplained deaths to animal health officials right away. This will help prevent the spread of disease and protect neighboring flocks.

## Look for signs of illness:

- *Reduced energy or appetite*
- *Lower egg production; soft-shelled or misshapen eggs*
- *Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and shanks*
- *Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs*
- *Difficulty breathing*
- *Runny nose, sneezing*
- *Twisting of the head and neck*
- *Stumbling or falling down*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Decreased activity*
- *Tremors*
- *Circling*
- *Complete stiffness*

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# Checklist for Using a Perimeter Buffer Area

When caring for your poultry, you need to access everyday supplies and equipment. At the same time, you need to avoid carrying around germs that could make your birds sick. Having clear separation between your poultry area (where your birds are kept) and the rest of the world will help you meet both of these needs. You can establish a perimeter buffer area: a zone outside of your bird enclosures that gives you space to work in while caring for your birds, but is separate from the rest of your property. On small farms and in backyards, this might just be some ground around a coop or barn where you keep your feed bin and equipment. On larger farms, the perimeter buffer area might include feed bins, manure sheds, composting areas, egg rooms, generators, and pump rooms. Whether you're part of a large commercial enterprise or raise birds as a hobby, keeping bird-related activities within the perimeter buffer area—and non-bird activities out of it—can help keep your poultry from getting sick.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.



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# ✓ Checklist: Tips for Using a Perimeter Buffer Area

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- Establish the perimeter buffer area with enough space to complete all of your normal bird-related tasks** (except the removal of dead birds) without leaving the buffer area.
- Require any vehicle or equipment that enters the perimeter buffer area to be cleaned and disinfected** before entering and before leaving the buffer area.
- Include a map that clearly outlines the perimeter buffer area in your biosecurity plan.** List the rules people must follow when entering or leaving this area. Give training and post signs to remind people of the steps they need to take.
- Consider a locked barrier at the site entrance.** If this is not possible, place signs at the entrance to the perimeter buffer area to prevent unauthorized access.
- Keep non-essential people and items, including vehicles, from entering the buffer area.** Have a parking area outside the buffer area, with a clear entrance to the buffer area nearby.

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# Checklist for Biosecurity Training

Whether you have a small backyard flock or a large commercial farm, biosecurity works best when everyone follows your set procedures every day, every time. That requires a training program to make sure anyone who has contact with your flock—employees, service personnel, and visitors alike—knows exactly what they need to do.

Poor compliance usually happens when people don't know or understand the biosecurity rules or when there's no consequence for ignoring them. Through training, you can change the culture at your facility to make biosecurity compliance a regular habit.

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- Train all owners, caretakers, and others who regularly enter the poultry area—** before they enter the first time. For employees who don't speak English, make sure you offer training and signage in a language they can understand.
- Cover these five key steps!** Anyone entering a biosecure premises should understand how to:
  1. Contact the Biosecurity Coordinator(s);
  2. Respect the Perimeter Buffer Area (PBA), including parking in the right place;
  3. Enter the PBA using arrival and biosecure entry procedures;
  4. Cross the Line of Separation (LOS) per biosecure entry procedures; and
  5. Perform biosecurity tasks assigned to their specific job.
- Always include site-specific procedures** in your training program. If you'd like, you can add any premises-wide or company-wide procedures, too.
- Stay ahead of visitors.** Inform contract crews, service personnel, consultants, and other visitors about your biosecurity procedures before they arrive onsite. You can tell them in advance either by phone or in writing.
- Give biosecurity training annually.** Document all training and keep training records for 3 years.

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# Checklist for Coordinating Biosecurity at Your Site

Good biosecurity is a crucial part of keeping your poultry healthy—and it takes good coordination to maintain it. That’s why every facility with poultry needs a biosecurity coordinator. The coordinator develops your site’s biosecurity plan and makes sure everyone follows it. This person should be knowledgeable about biosecurity principles, but does NOT have to be a poultry veterinarian. Biosecurity coordinators are leaders for all things biosecurity. They handle the small details—and the big ones—to make biosecurity an “every day, every time” routine.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock



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# ✓ Checklist: Tips for Biosecurity Coordinators

This checklist is a general guide for biosecurity coordinators at any location or level. Specific duties vary depending on the type and size of poultry operation.

- Get started on your biosecurity plan** by using the information manual and template at [poultrybiosecurity.org](http://poultrybiosecurity.org). Commercial growers should be sure their plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.
- Assess the risks at your site and address the biggest ones first.** Every site is unique, with its own biosecurity strengths and weaknesses. Knowing what those are will help you set priorities.
- Focus on what you can control.** The best plan is a practical one. It covers common procedures at the site, with clear steps people can follow.
- Work with onsite personnel** to carry out the biosecurity plan. Every employee has a part in keeping the premises biosecure and protecting the flock, whether it involves the structure and layout of the facility or the day-to-day tasks of caring for the birds.
- Train all personnel** regularly entering the site in biosecurity protocols and document that training.
- Check that the plan is being followed.** If biosecurity protocols are violated, take corrective action.
- Review the plan each year** or any time there's a change onsite that affects biosecurity. Document this review and update the plan as needed.
- Adapt the biosecurity plan to address changing risks or recommendations.** For example, if there's a local avian influenza outbreak, consider enhancing biosecurity measures and writing these temporary, more stringent actions into the plan.

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# Checklist for Safe Disposal of Dead Birds

It's an inevitable but unfortunate reality: you will deal with deaths in your flock. The best way to dispose of the birds depends on the size of your flock, the type of poultry you raise, and where you are located. You need to know what's allowed in your area (rules vary by State) and how to handle disposal safely. This is a key part of good biosecurity. By planning ahead and using the right methods, you can lower the risk of bringing new germs or diseases onto your property and protect your flock from more losses.

If you see or suspect anything unusual, call your flock supervisor, veterinarian, or cooperative extension office right away. Use this form to record phone numbers for contacts in your area. The earlier you act, the easier it is to contain the disease to a single flock.



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## Report Sick or Dead Birds

If you see large numbers of dead or dying birds in your flock or other signs of illness, take action right away!

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- Plan ahead!** Include procedures for carcass disposal in your biosecurity plan. You'll need routine procedures for all dead birds using normal mortality numbers, along with a contingency plan for a large number of deaths.
- Store or dispose of carcasses in a way that does not attract wild birds, rodents, insects, or other animals.** Collection bins should have tight-fitting lids, and burial pits or compost piles should be covered adequately to deter burrowing scavengers.
- Make sure your procedures cover these basics:**
  - Disposal methods follow all local, State, and Federal laws.
  - If using a pickup service, describe how the dead birds are moved to the pickup location and show that the vehicles/equipment at the pickup location never cross the perimeter buffer area.
  - Draw carcass movements on the site map, or explain them in some other clear way.
- Avoid cross contamination from equipment and vehicles.** Clean and disinfect them before and after leaving the farm. Don't use the same equipment and vehicles for feeding chores, manure and carcass handling, and animal handling, unless you clean and disinfect them before using for a different task.
- Visit disposal sites at the end of the day** to avoid carrying contaminants from farm to farm.
- Collect all bird carcasses as soon as possible,** at least once every day.

## Disposal methods

*Disposal methods may include composting, incineration, burial, or rendering. For most sites and flocks of all sizes, onsite disposal is more biosecure than taking carcasses offsite.*

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).







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# Checklist for Managing Poultry Manure and Litter

When you raise or handle poultry, you'll need to deal with manure. Depending on how you raise your birds, you may also need to dispose of used poultry litter. Managing these materials properly is a key part of biosecurity. Avian influenza virus can survive in manure and litter for long periods of time, and these items can carry other contaminants, too.

So, how do you manage poultry manure and litter safely? You can take some simple steps to protect your flock every day and plan ahead to guard them from disease spread during an outbreak.



Check the list on the back for tips to help keep your flocks healthy.



## Report Sick Birds

If you see signs of illness, take action right away!

Veterinarian  
Cooperative Extension Office  
State Veterinarian/Animal or Poultry Diagnostic Lab  
USDA

Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

866.536.7593





# ✓ Checklist: Managing Poultry Manure and Litter

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles

- Assess your site and options for removing, storing, and disposing of manure and used litter.** This might be onsite or offsite. The right approach depends on the species and number of birds and type of housing system at your facility.
- Define the scope:** What kinds of manure and litter do you need to manage at your site, and how much is produced over a given timeframe?
- Set up standard procedures that cover these basics:**
  - Collecting, transporting, storing, and/or using manure
  - Any State or local laws that apply
  - Environmental concerns
  - Wildlife, insect, and rodent control
- Develop a backup plan for long-term storage in a prolonged outbreak.** Spreading or storing manure and litter offsite may not be allowed depending on the risk of virus spread.
- Clean and disinfect** any vehicles and equipment used in manure removal **BEFORE** they arrive onsite.
- Remove all manure and litter from the poultry house and do a complete cleaning and disinfection **before adding any birds.**

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).







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# Checklist for Maintaining a Safe Water Supply

Having good quality water at your site is a crucial part of biosecurity. Your poultry need clean, safe water to drink, and you need it to cool your birds and clean your facilities and equipment without contaminating them. Water can carry disease agents, so the choices you make in how you source or treat your water are vital to protect your birds' health.

 Check the list on the back for tips to help keep your flocks healthy.



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# ✓ Checklist: Maintaining a Safe Water Supply

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- Use water from a contained water supply** (well or municipal system) for drinking, evaporative cooling, and cleaning whenever possible. This is the most biosecure water source for poultry.
- If you must use surface water, sanitize it first!** Ponds, streams, and other surface water can carry disease-causing germs. Sanitizing the water will kill these germs.
- Test any water used within your poultry buildings for bacteria.** Regular testing will give you a general idea of how clean your water system is. If bacteria numbers are too high (above maximum acceptable levels), you'll know you need to sanitize the water.
- Consult with experts when choosing water treatment methods.** The right methods vary based on many factors. For example, if your poultry's water supply contains certain vaccines, you need to use a water treatment that won't inactivate the vaccine. Experts can help you pick water treatments that are effective and won't harm your flock or water system.
- Write it down.** Include in your biosecurity plan the steps taken to provide uncontaminated water to your birds. This may include written water sanitation procedures, water treatment log sheets, and guidance for caretakers.
- If water treatment is not possible, include alternatives in your biosecurity plan.** Explain how you considered the risks of an untreated system and the steps you're taking to mitigate those risks.

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).





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# Checklist for Poultry Feed and Replacement Litter

Food and clean litter are two items that you need to have in ample supply at your poultry facility. They can also attract unwanted attention from wildlife, rodents, and insects. It's important to receive, store, and handle these items carefully to minimize the chance of contamination. By taking a few simple steps, you can make sure your poultry feed and litter are safe—and don't carry germs that could make your birds sick.

 Check the list on the back for tips to help keep your flocks healthy.



## Report Sick Birds

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State Veterinarian/Animal or Poultry Diagnostic Lab

USDA

Phone Number

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# ✓ Checklist: Poultry Feed and Replacement Litter

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- Make sure delivery trailers are covered** to prevent contamination of feed, feed ingredients, and fresh litter during transport to the farm.
- Store feed, feed ingredients, and fresh litter in **closed bins or buildings** to prevent contamination.
- Be careful when moving stored feed, feed ingredients, and fresh litter into poultry houses.** Use only cleaned and disinfected equipment, or better yet, equipment dedicated only to handling feed and fresh litter.
- Clean up any spills as soon as possible** to minimize the chance of attracting wildlife and rodents.
- Keep any bagged feed above the floor and have rodent control measures in place.**
- Do a daily feed spill check.** Identify where feed spills happen and work to reduce them.
- Write it down.** Include in your biosecurity plan the steps taken at your site to protect poultry feed and litter against contamination from wild birds, rodents, insects, and other animals. This may include written protocols, log sheets, and guidance for contractors.

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).







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# Checklist for Biosecurity Auditing

If you participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), meet certain flock size requirements, and wish to be eligible for maximum indemnity if highly pathogenic avian influenza ever strikes your flock, you will need to complete regular biosecurity audits. These paper-based audits with your NPIP Official State Agent ensure you have a solid biosecurity plan in place and are following it.

Though auditing is not required for other flocks, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encourages all poultry producers to follow NPIP biosecurity guidance. It's one of the best ways to reduce the risk of introducing diseases to your flock.

 Check the list on the back for tips to help keep your flocks healthy.



## Report Sick Birds

If you see signs of illness, take action right away!

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USDA

Phone Number

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# ✓ Biosecurity Auditing: What to Expect

If you are an NPIP participant and eligible to be audited based on your flock size, here's an overview of what you can expect during the audit.

- A biosecurity audit is a paper-based audit.** Maintain your biosecurity plan and all related documentation in a place that's easy for you and/or the auditor to access. The NPIP Official State Agent will decide whether to complete the audit in person (with the records) or electronically.
- The auditor will look** at the biosecurity plan, the training materials, documentation that the NPIP principles are being carried out, records of any corrective actions taken, and the biosecurity coordinator's annual review.
- Audits will take place at least once every 2 years**, or a sufficient number of times during that period for the NPIP Official State Agent to ensure compliance.
- If you fail the initial audit, you can request a "check audit."** This onsite audit would be conducted by a team, including a USDA poultry expert, the NPIP Official State Agent, and a licensed, accredited poultry veterinarian familiar with your type of operation.
- After completing a check audit** and showing you've taken corrective actions, you would be reinstated as compliant with NPIP biosecurity principles.

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# Biosecurity is a Team Effort



Backyard and  
Exhibition  
Growers



Veterinarians



Industry  
Growers and  
Workers



Government  
Agencies



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**Don't haul disease home**  
clean all vehicles and equipment.



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**Keep It Clean:** wear *separate* gear when caring for your poultry.



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**Wild fowl can carry disease**  
keep them away from your flock.



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**Always purchase poultry from NPIP participating breeders, hatcheries, or dealers.**



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**Keep new birds separate from the rest of the flock  
for 30 days to minimize disease.**



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**Separate the poultry house from potential disease sources.**

Keep a clear line of separation between the poultry area and the rest of the world.

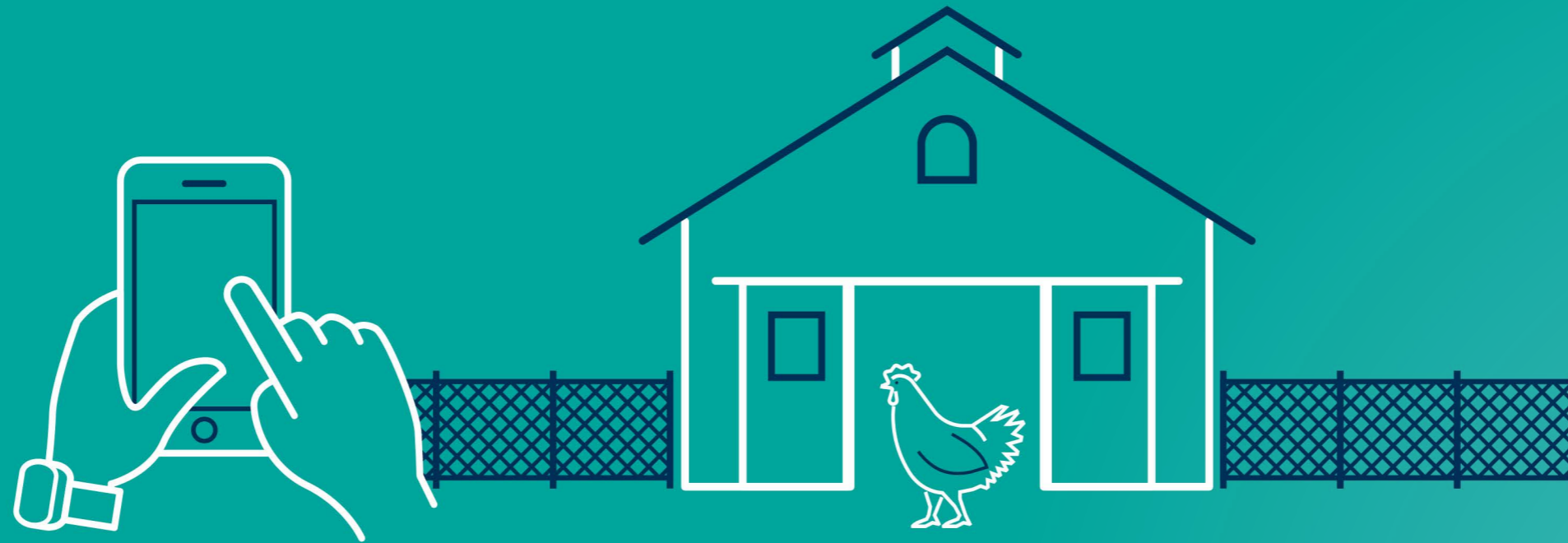


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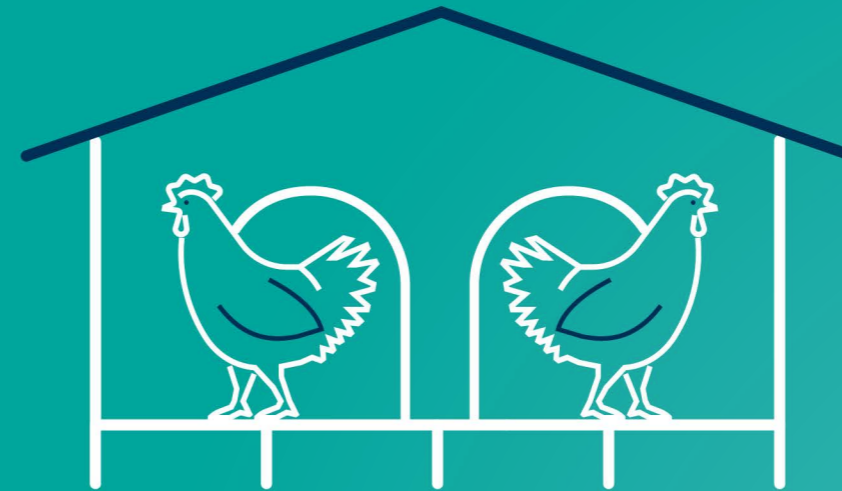
**Respond quickly to signs of disease.**  
Report unexplained bird illness or death immediately.



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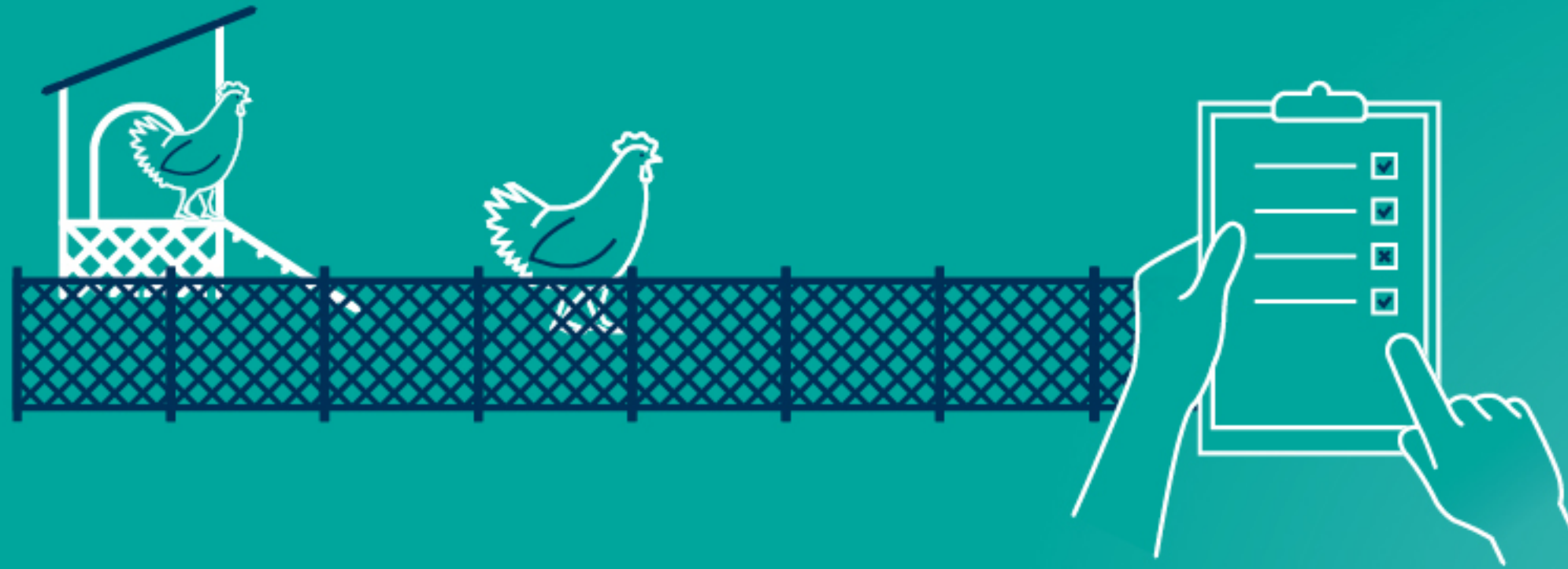
**Keep your flock away from activities that can spread disease.**  
Establish a perimeter buffer area to separate flocks from management tasks.



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**Make biosecurity a regular habit.**  
Train everyone who enters the poultry area.



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**Good biosecurity requires coordination.**  
Everyone has a role in keeping poultry healthy.



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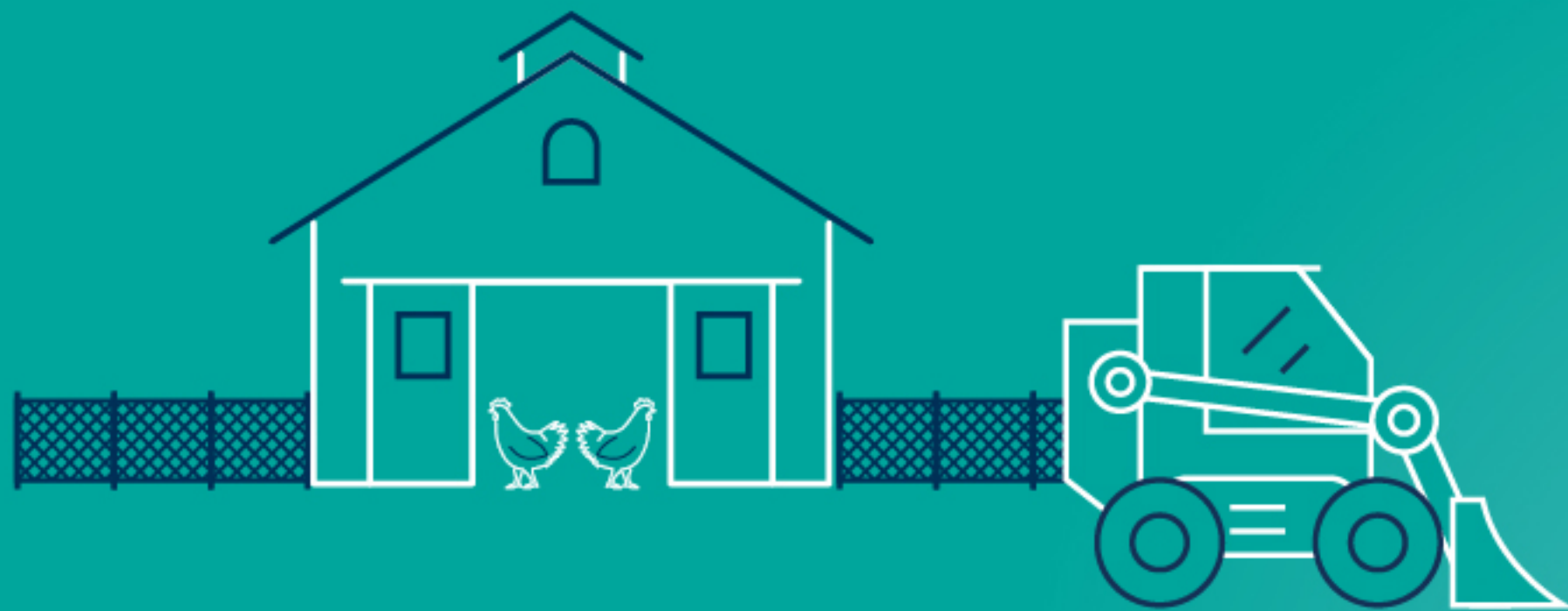
**Flock deaths happen—make sure you are prepared.**  
Use the right disposal methods to prevent spreading disease  
that could cause more losses.



Let's keep our poultry healthy together  
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**Germs that cause poultry diseases can survive  
in manure and litter for a long time.**  
Plan for secure collection, transportation, and storage.



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**Clean, safe water is vital to your birds' health.**

Use a contained water supply. If you use surface water, sanitize it first.



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# Make sure poultry feed and litter are secured to prevent contamination.

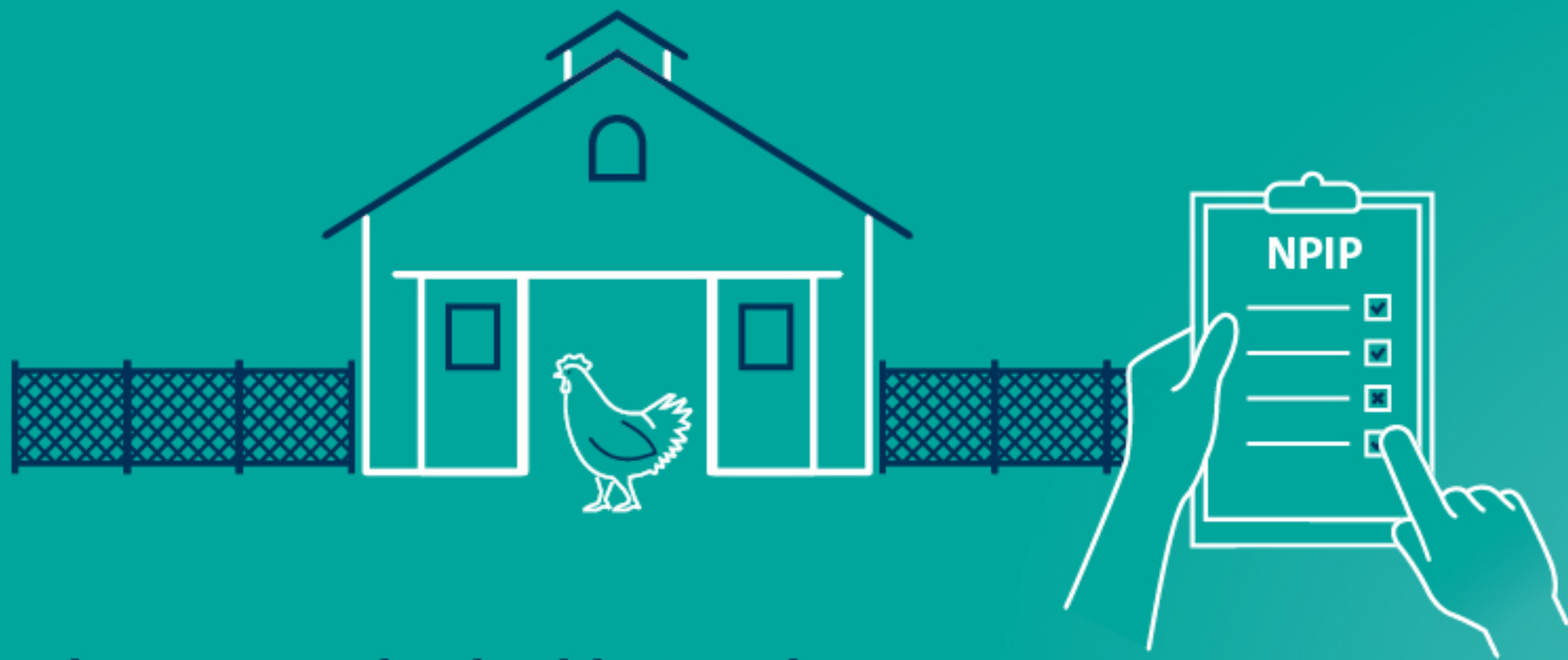
Store feed, ingredients, and fresh litter in closed bins or buildings.



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**All poultry producers are encouraged to follow NPIP biosecurity guidance.**  
It's one of the best ways to reduce the risk of introducing diseases to your flock.



Let's keep our poultry healthy together  
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**Do you own or  
work with poultry?**  
Let's keep our poultry  
healthy together.

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

# Use these basic tips to keep your birds healthy and prevent the spread of serious diseases like avian influenza and virulent Newcastle disease.

## 1. Always practice good biosecurity.

Review the 14 National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Biosecurity Principles ([www.poultryimprovement.org/documents/StandardE-BiosecurityPrinciples.pdf](http://www.poultryimprovement.org/documents/StandardE-BiosecurityPrinciples.pdf)) and create a biosecurity plan for your premises.

## 2. Remember to wash your hands before and after coming into contact with poultry.

If you don't have soap and water, use hand sanitizer.

## 3. Protect yourself.

Don't kiss or snuggle with your birds.

## 4. Protect your poultry.

Put control programs in place for wild birds (including their feces and their feathers), rodents, and insects. Clean and disinfect any poultry equipment before and after use.

## 5. Monitor your flock's health.

Know the signs of disease and check your flock daily for any signs of illness. Quarantine sick birds right away.

## 6. Report sick birds!

Call USDA toll-free at **1.866.536.7593** to reach our veterinarians. USDA can test your birds free of charge to make sure they don't have a serious poultry disease.



For free resources and to learn more about good biosecurity, visit: [www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock)

*Let's Keep Our Poultry Healthy Together*

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