

## **Poultry Biosecurity Checklist: Protecting Your Flock from Avian Influenza**

**This checklist is a starting point for biosecurity measures to help prevent the spread of Avian Influenza and other diseases in your poultry flock. Adapt these measures to your specific farm layout and size.**

### **General Measures:**

- **Limit Contact with Wild Birds:**
  - Use netting to secure your chicken coop and runs.
  - Keep bird feeders and water sources away from wild bird access points.
  - Clean up spilled feed promptly to avoid attracting wild birds.
  - Avoid bringing wild birds into your coop (e.g., on your clothes or shoes).
- **Practice Proper Hygiene:**
  - Wash your hands thoroughly before and after handling your birds, their food and water, and any equipment used in the coop.
  - Wear disposable gloves and coveralls when handling sick birds.
  - Disinfect boots, tools, and equipment regularly with a disinfectant approved for use against avian influenza.
  - Clean and disinfect the coop regularly, removing manure and debris frequently.
- **Quarantine New Arrivals:**
  - Isolate any new birds for a minimum of 30 days before introducing them to your existing flock.
  - Monitor them closely for any signs of illness during the quarantine period.
- **Maintain a Clean Coop Environment:**
  - Provide adequate ventilation in your coop to prevent moisture buildup.
  - Use bedding that is absorbent and easy to clean.
  - Remove manure and debris from the coop daily.
- **Be Vigilant:**
  - Regularly monitor your flock for any signs of illness, such as:
    - Respiratory problems (coughing, sneezing, gasping)
    - Swollen head and wattles

- Lethargy or unusual behavior
- Decreased egg production
- Diarrhea
- Nervous system signs (tremors, incoordination)
- If you suspect Avian Influenza in your flock, contact your veterinarian or local animal health authorities immediately.

**Additional Measures (Consider implementing these based on your specific situation):**

- **Vaccination:** Discuss vaccination options for Avian Influenza with your veterinarian. Vaccination recommendations may vary depending on your location and the current risk level.
- **Restrict Visitors:** Limit access to your coop to essential personnel only.
- **Rodent Control:** Implement a rodent control program to minimize the risk of rodents spreading disease.
- **Record Keeping:** Keep good records of your flock's health, including vaccination dates and any illnesses.

**Resources:**

- National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP):  
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/reference-guide/poultry/npip>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS): <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections>

**Remember:** Biosecurity is an ongoing process. By implementing these measures and remaining vigilant, you can help protect your flock from Avian Influenza and other diseases.