

# Owner OBLIGATIONS

- ✓ Use signs to let people know you care about your birds health and safety
- ✓ Have visitors sign a visitor log or guestbook
- ✓ Register for a premise identification number and account • Call 310.FARM
- ✓ Avoid contact with other birds or bird owners if there are signs of disease in the home flock
- ✓ Wear clean clothes and footwear into the community
- ✓ Keep birds contained and covered to limit the possibility of disease from wild birds and waterfowl
- ✓ Keep coops clean and temperature controlled
- ✓ Learn to recognize signs of disease in birds and plan how to respond

**Protect the health of your family and flock by preventing the introduction and spread of disease.**



## *Why are biosecurity programs and practices important?*

- › Diseases can spread from bird to bird and may spread from bird to people
- › Sick birds result in lost income due to decreased production, cost of treatment, death of stock and lost genetics
- › Minimize risk of disease transmission with an effective biosecurity program
- › Some bird diseases present a serious public health risk such as Salmonella, E.coli, Avian Influenza and Campylobacter
- › To keep food safe

## BIOSECURITY: Keeping Small Flocks Healthy



Canada

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of Alberta

Growing Forward  
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative



**AB.VMA**  
Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

[www.abvma.ca/biosecurity](http://www.abvma.ca/biosecurity)



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Promoting safe, healthy and humane animal and bird care

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# BIOSECURITY is...

Actions, precautions and management practices that protect the health of one bird, a flock and/or a farm by preventing the transmission of disease through physical barriers and hygiene practices.



Doing little things right, everyday, to protect flocks health and safety.

## How Does Biosecurity Benefit You?

### Biosecurity...

- > Increases value and production by keeping birds healthy
- > Prevents financial losses from bird illness due to decreased production or death
- > Minimizes the risk of Salmonella, E. coli and Avian Influenza by keeping birds and people free from disease
- > Helps keep the food supply safe by keeping our birds free from diseases such as Salmonella



### Complete a Risk Assessment

Completing a risk assessment will help clearly identify the areas that disease introduction and/or transmission may occur.

Risk assessments are available for flock caretakers on the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association website at [www.abvma.ca/biosecurity](http://www.abvma.ca/biosecurity). Risk assessments can help identify areas poultry and fowl owners can make small changes to protect their bird's health.



## Practical Practices of a Balanced Biosecurity Program

### Control people, animal and equipment access to flocks

- > Limit access to flocks and ask visitors to the birds to wear clean coveralls and boots that you supply
- > Build secure coops and runs to keep pests and wildlife out
- > Quarantine new birds from the main flock for a minimum of 28 days



### Manage bird health

- > Wash your hands between flocks and after handling sick or dead birds
- > Follow withdrawal times for medications prior to consuming eggs or meat
- > Keep flock and individual bird records
- > Work with a veterinarian to design a vaccination and disease treatment plan and then follow it!



- > Monitor food and water intake and supply a nutritionally balanced diet tailored for production purposes
- > Obtain new birds from reliable sources; ask what their biosecurity program includes and consider how it fits with your plan

### Follow sound operational practices

- > Clean *then* disinfect equipment and coops
- > Use the right disinfectant for the job, with the correct dilution and for the recommended contact time to ensure your effort and money are effective
- > Use personal protective equipment (e.g. disposable gloves, coveralls, masks) especially when handling sick or dead birds
- > Keep food sources covered to minimize pests



**Resources and information are available to help you in planning and implementing your biosecurity program.**



[www.abvma.ca/biosecurity](http://www.abvma.ca/biosecurity)