



## Avian Influenza & Your Poultry Farm

### Preventing Infection In Your Flock:

Avian influenza (AI) is a contagious viral disease that affects the respiratory, digestive, and/or nervous systems of many bird species. As previously witnessed in Asia, once the virus has been introduced into a flock it will spread very quickly, both internally and to nearby flocks. The only practical way to prevent further spread is by mass cull. The best way to avoid this negative outcome is to prevent the virus from infecting your flock through the following methods:



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





### **Detecting Infection In Your Flock:**

Quick response to an avian influenza outbreak can minimize the spread of the infection. Here are some things you should look for in your flock:



- 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.**

**In Alberta, call (403) 292-4301**

For more information, please visit the following links:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
(<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/avflue.shtml>)



Canadian Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments

- Government of Alberta – Sustainable Resources Development  
(<http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fw/diseases/AI/index.html>)

