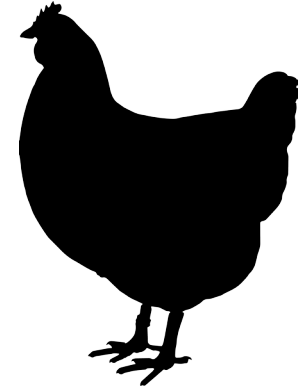


Keeping your birds healthy

Biosecurity is another way of saying “infectious disease control.” Biosecurity is a combination of management practices designed to prevent the introduction and transmission of diseases into and throughout a flock. Infectious diseases can be transmitted by animals, people, equipment and vehicles. Poultry exhibitions are events where birds have an increased risk of getting infectious diseases due to the commingling of animals from different sources. Taking some simple precautions can help reduce that risk and keep your animals healthy. Below are some biosecurity recommendations for ensuring the health of your exhibition birds.



Before the Show

- Keep your birds away from migratory waterfowl and other game birds, as these can carry disease-causing germs that could make your birds sick.
- Evaluate your bird's health prior to going to an exhibition. Never bring a bird to a show that is not healthy. Signs of illness can include wheezing; coughing; nasal discharge; depressed attitude; decreased feed intake; drop in egg production or quality; swelling/discoloration of eyes, head or neck; tremors; circling; drooping wings; twisting of the head and neck; and sudden death. If you see any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian.
- Take only clean and disinfected equipment to the exhibition to prevent any potential disease transfer from your birds to others.

During the Show

- Monitor your birds daily for signs of illness. If you suspect your bird is sick, notify a show official right away.
- Avoid personal contact with birds other than your own.
- Do not share feed, feed/water containers, bedding, or other supplies with other exhibitors.
- Clean cages and food and water containers daily.
- Wash your hands frequently with warm soapy water after contact with birds or equipment.

After the Show

- Isolate the birds you took to the exhibition from the rest of your flock when you return home.
- The exhibition birds should be as far from other birds as possible, but they need to be at least far enough away to prevent direct contact. Your veterinarian can help you establish a good location.
- Modify your chore routine to care for your exhibition birds last each day. Do not share equipment between these birds and any other animals at home.
- Monitor the exhibition birds daily for signs of illness, including those signs listed in the “Before the Show” section. Contact your veterinarian if any bird shows signs of illness.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment, shoes and vehicles you took to the exhibition. Allow them to dry completely.
- Talk to your veterinarian to determine the best biosecurity practices for your birds.