

# How To Protect Your Birds

## 1 Keep Your Distance.

- Restrict access to your property and your birds.
- Consider fencing off the area where you keep your birds and make a barrier area if possible. Allow only people who take care of your birds to come into contact with them.
- If visitors have birds of their own, do not let them near your birds.
- Game birds and migratory waterfowl should not have contact with your flock because they can carry germs and diseases.



## 2 Keep It Clean.

- Wear clean clothes. Scrub your shoes with disinfectant.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before entering your bird area.
- Clean cages and change food and water daily.
- Clean and disinfect equipment that comes in contact with your birds or their droppings, including cages and tools.
- Remove manure before disinfecting.
- Properly dispose of dead birds.



## 3 Don't Haul Disease Home.

- If you have been near other birds or bird owners, such as at a feed store, clean and disinfect car and truck tires, poultry cages and equipment before going home.
- Have your birds been to a fair or exhibition? Keep them separated from the rest of your flock for at least two weeks after the event.
- New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 30 days.



## 4 Don't Borrow Disease From Your Neighbor.

- Do not share lawn and garden equipment, tools, or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners...
- If you do bring these items home, clean and disinfect them before they reach your property.



## 5 Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases.

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft- or thin-shelled, misshapen eggs
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs (AI)
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (END)

Early detection is important to prevent the spread of disease.



## 6 Report Sick Birds.

- Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying call:
- Your local cooperative extension office, or
  - Local veterinarian, or
  - The state veterinarian, or
  - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services office:
    - Toll-free hotline (1-866-536-7593).
    - There is no charge for this service.



*You are the best protection your birds have.*