



## Overview – Defend the Flock Campaign

All sectors of the U.S. poultry industry felt the devastating effects of a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak in December 2014-June 2015. Animal health officials confirmed more than 200 cases of HPAI in commercial and backyard poultry, as well as wild birds, across the country. This shows how quickly disease can strike and create devastating consequences.

Our commercial poultry industry is one of the largest in the world and an important segment of our agricultural economy. As a result, protecting the health and safety of our nation's flocks is a top priority. HPAI, as well as exotic Newcastle Disease, are two highly contagious and infectious poultry diseases, which if found in U.S. poultry, will have severe economic and trade consequences. In addition to these devastating diseases, many others can impact the integrity of our food supply, cause public concern, create financial loss and interrupt international trade.

Strong biosecurity programs that are understood and practiced at all levels of the commercial industry are one of the best ways to protect these flocks against HPAI and other infectious diseases. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is dedicated to helping the companies and growers who care for poultry establish and follow best biosecurity practices. In turn, APHIS developed and launched a new outreach and education campaign "Defend the Flock" to help commercial growers apply the practices.

This toolkit, in coordination with the Defend the Flock website will help equip you and those you work with and influence with the resources needed to develop and implement strong biosecurity practices. More information and resources will be added to the toolkit and website over the coming months, so check back for updates.

Please support these efforts, and our work to defend the U.S. poultry flock, in the following ways:

- 1) Share the resources in this toolkit with those you influence in the U.S. poultry industry – state partners, extension agencies, poultry companies and growers.
- 2) Provide USDA-APHIS with feedback on the information, so we can continue to develop and improve these resources.
- 3) Encourage poultry companies and growers to adopt the principles and create their own biosecurity programs implementing the methods and means that work best for their operation.

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility, and together we can work to defend our flock from infectious disease.

Signed,



Jack A. Shere, DVM, PhD  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

## General Preparedness

Disease can strike suddenly and spread quickly, bringing with it financial and emotional devastation, and in some cases, trade implications – as experienced with the HPAI outbreak in 2014-2015. It's important for someone involved in poultry production to be alert to disease threat and familiar with protocols to help prevent disease and be prepared to respond quickly and efficiently.

Biosecurity is the greatest opportunity companies, producers and other stakeholders have to reducing the possibility of disease introduction. With good biosecurity plans and careful, regular practice, we can keep flocks healthy and help reduce the spread of disease while limiting public concern, loss of export markets and the financial and emotional impact of disease.

## Biosecurity: The First Line of Defense

Biosecurity practices proactively reduce the possibility of disease spread, both from bird-to-bird contact as well as transfer by people, vehicles and equipment. As a result, a strong farm-level biosecurity program serves as the first line of defense against the spread of disease – both for individual poultry flocks and the collective U.S. flock.

Avian influenza, specifically highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), is one of the most serious infectious disease threats to the U.S. poultry industry. The devastating effect of HPAI was realized by many poultry growers in 2014 and 2015, when more than 50 million birds were affected with the disease.

### ***Biosecurity Basics***

There are several basic practices that can be easily incorporated into daily routines as part of a best management program on your farm or operation. **Your company may already have biosecurity policies and practices in place. If so, please follow their guidance.** If no guidance exists, you can use these basic practices to help protect your flock:

- *Keep visitors to a minimum.*  
Allow only people who care for your poultry – veterinarians, contract workers, etc. – to come into contact with the flock, and keep a record of who is on your farm at all times. Ensure anyone who does have contact with your flock follows biosecurity principles.
- *Wash your hands before and after coming in contact with live poultry.*  
In addition to potentially spreading disease from farm to farm or bird to bird, you can also spread germs such as Salmonella that can impact human health. It's necessary to make sure hands are clean. Wash your hands with soap and water (always your first choice). If water is not available, remove as much organic material as possible before using hand sanitizer.
- *Provide disposable boots covers (preferred) and/or disinfectant footbaths for anyone having contact with your flock.*  
If using a footbath, be sure to remove all droppings, mud or debris from boots using a long-handled scrub brush BEFORE stepping into the disinfectant footbath.
- *Change clothes before entering the poultry areas and before exiting the farm.*  
Visitors should wear proper protective outer garments or disposable coveralls, boots and headgear when handling birds, and shower and/or change clothes upon leaving the facility.
- *Clean and disinfect any tools or equipment before moving them to a new poultry facility.*  
Before allowing service vehicles, trucks, tractors or tools and equipment, including egg flats and cases that have come in contact with birds or their droppings to exit the farm, make sure they are cleaned and disinfected to prevent contaminated equipment from transporting disease. Items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected – including cardboard egg flats – must not be moved.

## Biosecurity Self-Assessment

APHIS, state, academic and industry experts have worked together to create a biosecurity checklist that companies and growers can use when implementing effective biosecurity plans.

To complete the self-assessment, available online, visit [http://www.uspoultry.org/animal\\_husbandry/intro.cfm](http://www.uspoultry.org/animal_husbandry/intro.cfm)

## Biosecurity Resources

- Biosecurity Basics Infographic/Factsheet:
  - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/fs-biosecurity-basics-defend-the-flock.pdf>

## Defend the Flock Campaign Resources

- Defend the Flock website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock>
- Social graphics:
  - Change clothes before entering the poultry areas and prior to exiting the farm  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/usda-hpai-df-social-media-1.png>
  - Clean and disinfect any tools or equipment before moving to a new poultry location  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/usda-hpai-df-social-media-2.png>
  - Keep visitors to a minimum  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/usda-hpai-df-social-media-3.png>
  - Wash your hands before and after coming in contact with poultry  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/usda-hpai-df-social-media-4.png>
  - Provide disposable boots for use by visitors to the farm  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/usda-hpai-df-social-media-5.png>
  - Always clean and disinfect boots  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/usda-hpai-df-social-media-6.png>
  - Keep poultry away from wild fowl  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/usda-hpai-df-social-media-7.png>
- Magnet/laminate template:
  - Multi-species artwork  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/magnets/usda-hpai-df-magnet-1.jpg>
  - Chicken artwork  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/magnets/usda-hpai-df-magnet-2.jpg>
  - Turkey artwork  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/magnets/usda-hpai-df-magnet-3.jpg>
  - Game bird artwork  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/magnets/usda-hpai-df-magnet-4.jpg>
  - Full set of artwork  
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/magnets/usda-hpai-df-magnet.pdf>

## Additional APHIS Resources

### State Preparedness Training Resources

In every state, there are issues or concerns that are more prevalent than in other locations. To help our state partners, APHIS developed a series of template factsheets that the state animal health officials can complete/customize for their needs and use when giving biosecurity training to commercial producers.

These are word document templates and can be adjusted to fit your needs.

- Producer Template:
  - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/biosecurity-tips-producer-template.docx>
- Worker Template:
  - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/biosecurity-tips-worker-template.docx>
- Visitor Template:
  - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pest-disease/defend-flock/biosecurity-tips-visitor-template.docx>

## Response Materials

### Response Materials

- [What to Expect if You Suspect](#) (Factsheet)
- [HPAI: A Guide to Help You Understand the Response Process](#) (Infographic)
- [The HPAI Indemnity and Compensation Process](#) (Factsheet)
- [Detection and Quarantine](#)(Factsheet)
- [Appraisal and Compensation](#)(Factsheet)
- [Depopulation and Disposal](#)(Factsheet)
- [Eliminating the HPAI Virus](#)(Factsheet)
- [HPAI and Vaccine Use](#) (Factsheet)

## Shared Resources

- **National Poultry Improvement Plan**  
[www.poultryimprovement.org](http://www.poultryimprovement.org)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm>
- **National Turkey Federation**  
Biosecurity Guidelines  
<http://www.eatturkey.com/sites/default/files/2016%20Biosecurity%20Guidelines.pdf>
- **National Chicken Council**  
[www.nationalchickencouncil.org](http://www.nationalchickencouncil.org)
- **U.S. Poultry & Egg Association**  
Infectious Disease Risk Management: Practical Biosecurity Resources for Commercial Poultry Producers  
[http://www.uspoultry.org/animal\\_husbandry/biosecurity.cfm](http://www.uspoultry.org/animal_husbandry/biosecurity.cfm)  
All in or all gone. Protect your farm. Protect your livelihood.  
<http://www.allinallgone.com/>  
U.S. Poultry NPIP Principles Template  
[http://www.uspoultry.org/animal\\_husbandry/biosecurity.cfm](http://www.uspoultry.org/animal_husbandry/biosecurity.cfm)
- **California Department of Food and Agriculture – Biosecurity Risk Assessment Tool**  
[https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/BioSpecies/pdfs/CDFAPoultryFacilityBiosecurityRiskAssessmentGuide.pdf](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/BioSpecies/pdfs/CDFAPoultryFacilityBiosecurityRiskAssessmentGuide.pdf)
- **The Minnesota Board of Animal Health**  
Biosecurity for Feed Deliveries on Farms – Factsheet  
<http://minnesotaturkey.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Feed-Delivery-Biosecurity-4-20151.pdf>
- **Avian Influenza Presentation -- Dr. Helen Wojcinski, of Hendrix Genetics**  
Addressing aspects of avian influenza in turkeys and serving as a resource with basic information to understand the disease and how to prevent it from entering poultry farms.  
<https://youtu.be/V323VfTGnn0>
- **The American Zoological Association - Zoo and Aquarium All Hazards Preparedness, Response and Recovery (ZAHP) Fusion Center**  
ZAHP HPAI checklist:  
<http://zahp.aza.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/HPAI-Checklist-final.pdf>  
ZAHP Resource page  
<http://zahp.aza.org/resources/>  
ZAHP's HPAI updates  
<http://zahp.aza.org/hpai-updates/>
- **The Zoo Animal Health Network**  
FAD training  
<http://www.zooanimalhealthnetwork.org/FAD-Training>

## Questions and Answers

### **How do I get print quality files?**

To obtain high-resolution or print quality files of toolkit materials, contact Donna Karlsons at [donna.l.karlsons@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:donna.l.karlsons@aphis.usda.gov).