

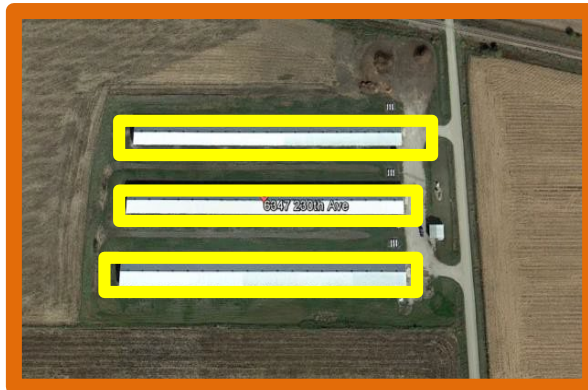


# Importance of Biosecurity

Site Awareness

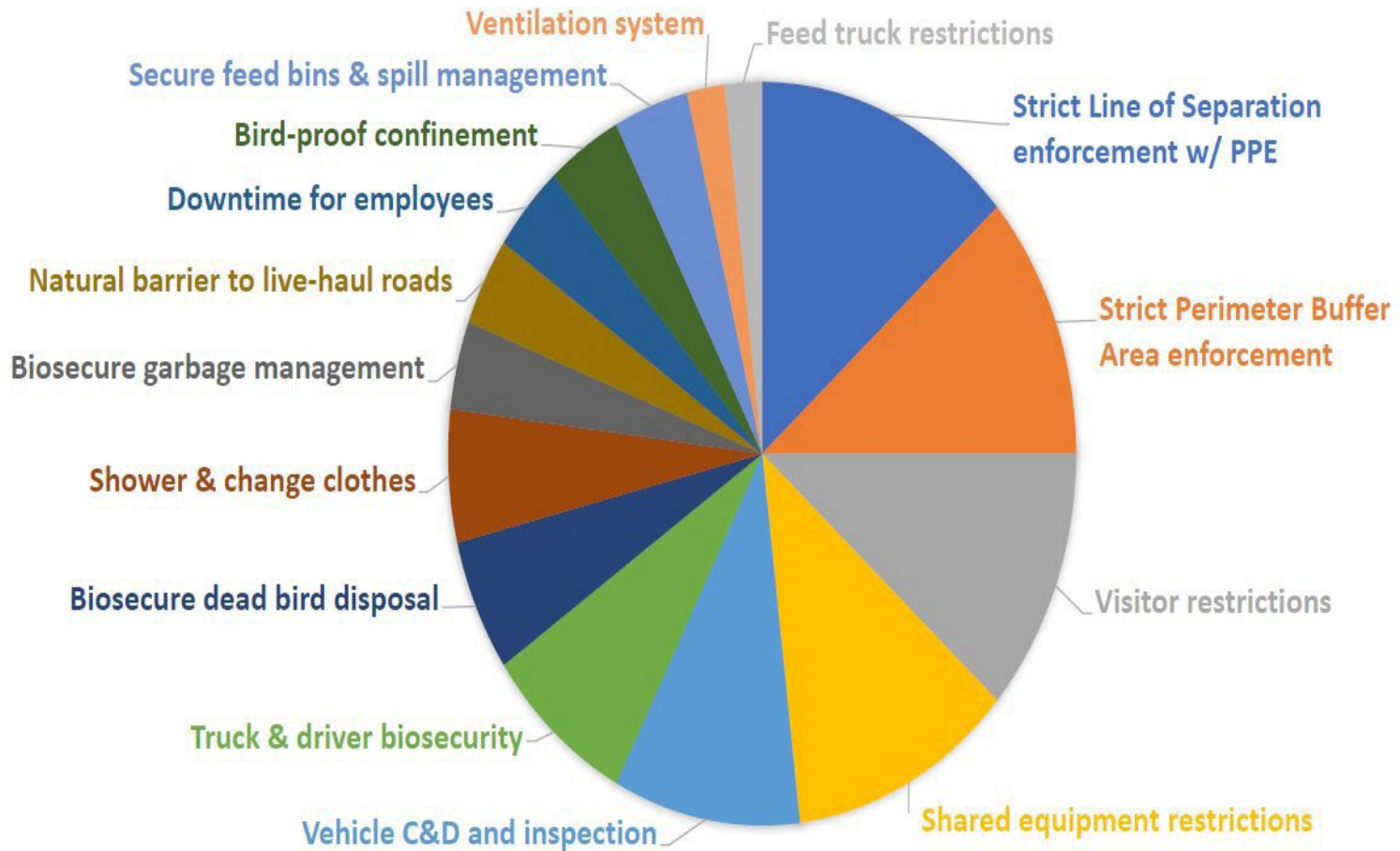


- Previous outbreaks reveal vulnerabilities
- Strict enforcement of:
  - Line of Separation (LOS)
  - Perimeter Buffer Area (PBA)
  - Shared equipment restrictions
  - Visitor restrictions





# What can producers do to enhance biosecurity?



# What Should A Producer Be Doing Now

## Know and look for the warning signs of infectious bird disease: HPAI

- Swollen head, Cyanotic Comb and Wattles
- Hemorrhages on Legs, footpads and feet
- Soft- or thin-shelled eggs; Misshapen eggs
- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock





## What Should A Hunter Be Doing Now

- Since wild birds can be infected with these viruses without appearing sick, people should minimize direct contact with wild birds by using gloves.
  
- **If you hunt, take routine precautions:**
  - Don't harvest, handle, or eat wild birds that are obviously sick or found dead.
  - Dress your game birds in the field whenever possible to prevent any potential disease spread.
  - Wear rubber gloves while cleaning game or cleaning bird feeders.
  - Do not eat, drink, smoke, or rub your eyes while handling wild birds.
  - Wash your hands with soap and water after cleaning game, and change clothing before having any contact with healthy domestic poultry and birds.

Biosecurity information is available

at: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal\\_health/2015/fsc\\_hpai\\_hunters.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2015/fsc_hpai_hunters.pdf).



## Biosecurity

- The entrance to the poultry area should have a solid floor that is easy to clean and disinfect, such as a concrete pad.
- Do not provide water to your birds from ponds or other outdoor open water sources.
- Dedicate a pair of shoes or boots to your poultry area. Change your shoes before entering the bird enclosure.
- Hunters who also work with poultry should wash their vehicles, shower, and change clothes before returning to a farm.



## Biosecurity

- Scan the environment around the poultry enclosure for wild waterfowl droppings frequently and remove them promptly.
- Pay close attention to entryways and other areas where people, vehicles, and equipment move.
- Use the buddy system to help each other follow biosecurity measures properly, every time.
- Have someone who isn't involved in the day-to-day operation of your farm to review your plan, watch biosecurity practices in action, and provide suggestions from improvements from their fresh perspective.



## Biosecurity

- Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds.
- APHIS has materials about biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and a toolkit available at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/df-resources/df-resources>



## Biosecurity

- A team effort and a shared responsibility
- Like “life insurance” Hope you have it when you need it
- An ongoing process and must be always followed
- Practical guidelines must involve all workers
- Biosecurity is an investment, not an expense!
- There is no ‘one size fits all’ solution for biosecurity.
- Every effort should be made to prevent the first index case through improved biosecurity
  
- USDA is urging the poultry industry, including backyard bird owners, to step up their biosecurity practices as East Asia, Africa, Europe and now Canada report cases of a highly pathogenic Avian influenza.





# Summary of U.S. HPAI Response Process

Figure 16. A Guide to Help You Understand the Response Process

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

### A Guide To Help You Understand the Response Process

#### 1 Detect

You see unusual signs of illness or sudden deaths in your flock. You report it to your private or State veterinarian. Samples are taken and tested. You find out your flock is positive for HPAI.

#### 2 Quarantine

USDA and State personnel come to your farm. We assign you a caseworker, who will be your main point of contact onsite, answer your questions, and guide you through the needed paperwork. We will also place your operation under quarantine, meaning only authorized workers are allowed in and out, and movement restrictions for poultry, poultry products, and equipment go into effect. We contact neighboring poultry farms and start testing their birds to see if they've been affected, too.

#### 3 Appraise

We work with you to create a flock inventory. This lists how many birds you have, what species they are, their age, and other key details that will help us give you 100 percent of fair market value for your birds.

#### 4 Depopulate

Infected flocks are depopulated as quickly as possible—ideally within 24 hours of the first HPAI detection—to get rid of the virus.

#### 5 Compensate

You receive your first indemnity payment early on in the response process. We also pay you a standard amount for virus elimination activities (cleanup work).

#### 6 Manage Disposal

USDA will help you dispose of the dead birds safely. Disposal methods include composting, burial, incineration, rendering, or landfilling. The options you'll have depend on several things: what type of farm you have, the specific conditions there, State and local laws, and what you prefer.

#### 7 Eliminate Virus

The next step is to wipe out all traces of the virus at your property. To kill the virus, thoroughly clean and disinfect the barn, equipment, and all affected areas of your farm. You can do this work yourself or hire contractors to handle it.

#### 8 Test

As soon as you're ready, let your caseworker know you're finished with cleanup. Your site must then stay empty for at least 21 days. During this time, we'll return to collect and test environmental samples. We need to confirm that your property is completely virus-free.

#### 9 Restock

Once USDA and the State both approve, you can restock your facilities and start production again. State officials will release your farm from quarantine after all required testing and waiting periods are done.

#### 10 Maintain Biosecurity

After restocking, you'll need to continue maintaining the highest biosecurity standards to keep the virus from coming back. For biosecurity tips, go to [www.aphis.usda.gov/publications](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications) and download the factsheet "Prevent Avian Influenza at Your Farm."

#### How Long Does the Process Take?

Ideally, this entire process could be completed as soon as 60–120 days. However, the timeframe varies depending on many things (for example, flock size, depopulation and disposal methods used, test results, farm's location). We're committed to restoring production as fast as we can while also protecting poultry health.

#### Questions?

Talk with your caseworker or the State or Federal officials responding to the disease event in your area.

For general information and contacts, visit:  
[www.usda.gov/avian\\_influenza.html](http://www.usda.gov/avian_influenza.html)  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/fadprep)

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