

DUCKS AND GEESE

AVIAN INFLUENZA BIOSECURITY ADVICE

Q. Why is good biosecurity important?

To protect your ducks and geese from avian influenza you need to prevent them from coming into contact with potentially infected wild birds, their faeces and other secretions. The three principles of good biosecurity include: 1) segregation of wild and domestic birds, 2) good hygiene practices, and 3) frequent cleaning and disinfection.

Q. What are the risk factors for avian influenza specifically associated with duck farming practices?

- Water for ducks and geese could potentially be contaminated by wild birds.
- Duck and goose housing may not be wild bird proof.
- Straw used for bedding may be contaminated by wild birds prior to use if not properly stored. It may also attract wild birds and rodents.

Q. What are the most important biosecurity measures to prevent avian influenza?

1. Prevent wild bird contact with your birds, e.g. by use of netting and fences
2. Only feed and water your birds under cover, and prevent wild bird access to your feed, water and bedding
3. Provide clean drinking water (not water that could have been contaminated by wild birds e.g. not lake or pond water), and prevent access to any outdoor water
4. Use designated clothing and footwear for attending your birds
5. Wash and disinfect your hands before and after looking after your birds, and place disinfectant foot dips at entrances to bird areas
6. Keep different bird species separated (in particular ducks and geese from other poultry species)
7. Prevent contact of ducks and geese with droppings from flying wild birds, e.g. make sure any temporary housing is covered with canvas or tarpaulin
8. Keep the environment clean and unattractive to wild birds, e.g. keep grass cut, drain any unnecessary ground-water, and use scarecrows
9. Check your ducks and geese regularly for signs of illness
10. Prevent rodents, pets, unnecessary personnel, and vehicles from accessing your bird living area
11. Only buy ducks and geese from a known reputable source - isolate any newly introduced birds for two weeks if possible, and look after your own birds before the new birds
12. Clean and disinfect any equipment before and after use
13. Provide only commercial feed (it is illegal to feed farmed animal species with food waste) and clean up any food spills

Avian Influenza Information April 2017

Further information on avian influenza can be found at:

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/

