



Poultry biosecurity for exhibitors

Mixing birds from different properties and locations at an event provides an opportunity for infectious diseases to spread.

Diseases like H5 bird flu can spread to other birds by contact with infected birds, their faeces, secretions, feathers, contaminated feed, water, bedding, equipment, vehicles and people's hands, clothing and boots.

The steps below will help exhibitors meet their biosecurity responsibility to minimise the risk of a disease outbreak at an event.

Before the event

Prevent direct and indirect contact with wild birds with housing

- To reduce the risk of H5 bird flu infecting your birds, house your birds for at least 14 days before the event to prevent direct and indirect contact with wild birds, their droppings and secretions.
- Housing should include a covered roof over the whole enclosure to prevent droppings and secretions falling into the coop and secure netting to prevent wild bird and pest entry.

Regularly clean and disinfect poultry housing, including:

- feed and water containers, floors, walls and netting
- poultry equipment and carrying containers.

Feed, water and bedding

- Keep feed and water within housing to prevent contamination by wild birds or pests.
- Do not let poultry access water sources such as dams used by wild birds or treat the water before using. See the DPIRD factsheet on [Safe water for poultry](#).
- Ensure drainage in the bird enclosure prevents pooling of water.
- Keep feed and bedding supplies secure from wild birds and rodents.
- Clean up feed spills to discourage pests.

- Regularly replace bedding with fresh bedding.
- Check feed and bedding packaging to ensure it is suitable for poultry. Ask private sellers for a written declaration that the feed and bedding are safe for poultry.

Visitors

- Keep a record of visitors.
- Limit access to poultry areas. Provide a footbath or clean footwear for necessary visitors, ensure they wash their hands before handling poultry and wear clean clothing. Do not allow overseas visitors to have contact with poultry for a week after returning.

Monitor and report

- Inspect poultry daily and isolate birds at the first signs of disease.
- Regularly treat poultry to control pests and parasites.
- Record and report deaths, decreased production or unusual diseases to a veterinarian.

Selecting birds for the show

- Only take healthy birds to shows. If there are signs of illness in your flock, do not take any birds, even those that appear well.
- Signs of disease include the “sick bird look” of a fluffed-up, lethargic bird, to swollen faces and eyes, rapid or difficult breathing, sneezing or excessive mucus production, open-mouthed breathing, inability to walk or stand, unusual head or neck posture, diarrhoea and loss of appetite.
- Only take birds free from external parasites (such as fleas, mites and lice) to events.

At the event

- Follow the event organiser’s biosecurity requirements.
- Make sure exhibition cages are thoroughly cleaned before placing your birds inside.
- Do not allow other exhibitors to handle your birds. If this is necessary, ensure they thoroughly wash hands between birds.
- Monitor birds for signs of disease and report signs to the event organiser immediately.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors.

After the event

- Quarantine birds returning from an event from the rest of the flock for at least 30 days.
- Clean and disinfect all carrying containers, food and water containers and other equipment taken to the event.
- Feed and clean quarantined birds after caring for your other birds. Use separate equipment for quarantined birds or clean it before using with your existing flock.
- If your birds become ill or several die within a short time, report it immediately to your local veterinarian, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development veterinarian or the **Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888**.
- Keep a record of all bird movements onto and off your property, particularly to shows.

More information

- Visit: dpird.wa.gov.au/poultry-biosecurity

Important disclaimer

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