



# Poultry biosecurity for events

**Biosecurity helps protect poultry against diseases, pests and chemical residues.**

To prevent disease in your exhibition birds, take the biosecurity steps below:

## **At home – before the event**

### **Regularly clean and disinfect:**

- feed and water containers, floors, walls and netting to prevent disease and bacterial build-up
- poultry equipment and carrying containers.

### **Feed and water**

- Keep wild birds and pests away from your poultry's feed and water.
- Do not let poultry access water sources used by wild birds.
- Sanitise river or dam water used for poultry as wild birds can contaminate this water. See the [National water biosecurity poultry production manual](#) for details.
- Ensure drainage in the bird enclosure prevents pooling of water.
- 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 use by visitors.
- 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

- 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 any signs of disease during the show. If you see an unwell bird, report it to the show organiser immediately.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors.

## Returning home

- 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 you see disease signs in your birds or several die within a short time, report it immediately to your local vet, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development vet 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

Topic	Source	QR code to webpage
<b>National water biosecurity poultry production manual</b>	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	
<b>H5 avian influenza (H5 bird flu) –</b> see video under ‘What you can do to help’ heading. (H5 avian influenza is <b>not</b> present in Australia, but may occur in the future)	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	
<b>DPIRD field veterinary officers</b>	DPIRD	

### Important Disclaimer

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