

Cost / Benefit of Biosecurity

Spotlight on Managing Sick Birds

Once contaminated, poultry facilities are **difficult and expensive** to clean, sanitize and disinfect¹. Visible signs of disease are only the tip of the iceberg, beneath which there may be less obvious subclinical diseases which can be **devastating economically**, over a long period of time¹. Bird-to-bird transmission of diseases may result from direct contact with an infected bird or through indirect contact with fomites such as feathers, feed, unclean footwear and clothing and fecal material from birds or bird mortalities¹.

For this factsheet we have "infected" **one** bird* (Pic. #1) with *Glo Germ* - an orange dust that luminesces under UV light. In less than half an hour half of the birds in the pen become "infected" through direct contact with the first bird or through indirect contact with "infected" dust (Pic. #2) that has been shed onto the bedding and through loose feathers (Pic. #3)



How to Quarantine your flock and Manage Deadstock

Quarantining Birds

1. Record histories of any diseases and vaccinations for all new birds³
2. Keep show birds or new birds away from the rest of the flock for **at least 2-4 weeks** and monitor them for signs of illness³.
3. Always care for the birds in quarantine last; Equipment in the quarantine area should never leave the area; clean the quarantine area last in the daily routine⁴.
4. Do not allow people who keep poultry, or who have recently been in contact with other birds near your birds³.

Managing Deadstock

1. Have a designated area and sealable bin for deadstock that is well away from live poultry.
2. Remove mortalities daily. Store or dispose of them by freezing, composting or rendering³.
3. After mortalities are cleared from the facility, clean and disinfect collection bins thoroughly with disinfectant (Pics #4-5)

If you have questions about options for deadstock disposal or the new regulations, please contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300.



"Infected" Litter & Feathers

#2

Contaminated Mortality Bins



Contaminated Bin



Looks Clean but still Contaminated...

References

- ¹ Poultry Facility Biosecurity, John B. Carrey http://repository.tamu.edu/bitstream/handle/1969.1/87791/pdf_823.pdf?sequence=1
- ³ Biosecurity Recommendations for Small Flock Poultry Owners <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/poultry/facts/05-079.htm>

- ⁴ Biosecurity for Poultry at Community Farms. Bridgid A. McCreca, Francine A. Bradley <http://books.google.ca/books?id=47PgLms6LXoC&pg=PA8&ots=adisahGUPe&dq=quarantine%20sick%20poultry&lr&pg=PA1#v=onepage&q=quarantine%20sick%20poultry&f=false>

*Glo Germ is a completely safe, non-toxic product, and birds were not harmed during this experiment.