



Nebraska Poultry Biosecurity Guidebook

Live Poultry Sales

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Roots.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Live Poultry Sales Biosecurity

Practicing good biosecurity and farm management will help decrease the chance of disease on the farm. Biosecurity is just as important away from the farm at poultry sales, auctions, and swap meets. Poultry sales, auctions, and swap meets should practice good biosecurity to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases during sales or meets. Organizers of these events should not allow sick birds to enter the sales or swap meet facilities. Facilities should be cleaned and disinfected after each event.



The first step to disease prevention is protection from exposure to disease agents. “Bio” means biological, referring to birds or disease agents, and “security” refers to safety against these diseases. Diseases can be contagious and can easily spread, so biosecurity must be practiced at all times. Diseases can be spread by movement of birds, people, vehicles, pets, clothing, machinery, insects, rodents, and contaminated material. Manure can spread disease on hands, shoes, cages, and equipment.

The following biosecurity measures will help decrease the risk of disease spread at poultry sales, auctions, and swap meets. Sales facilities should tell participants ways to prevent bringing possible diseases from the auction back to their birds. The main concepts of biosecurity are listed and reviewed below. Additional information from the USDA can be found at [USDA APHIS | Defend the Flock - Biosecurity 101](#). A corresponding video is available at [Defend the Flock - Biosecurity to Protect Your Poultry](#).

The main concepts of biosecurity for Live Poultry Sales are:

- **Keep Distance**
- **Keep it Clean**
- **Don't Haul Disease Home**
- **Don't Borrow Disease**
- **Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases**
- **Report Sick Birds**





Keep Distance

- All birds that are brought to poultry sales, auctions, or swap meets should be examined for signs of disease before being allowed to be sold. The birds should be examined before they are placed in an area with other birds.
- Post signs at the place of sale stating that sick birds will be turned away from the sale premises.
- If birds with signs of disease are identified, they should not be allowed to be sold and not allowed on the premises.
- Keep a footbath at the entrance of the sale facility for participants to use to decrease the tracking of disease into the facility.

Keep it Clean

- Poultry sales, auctions, and swap meet facilities should be cleaned and disinfected after each event.
- If birds are being handled by an auctioneer, the auctioneer should clean his or her hands with sanitizing gel before handling each lot of birds.
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies should be available for participants and the sales facility to use. Supplies should include water, soap, disinfectant, and brushes for cleaning soles of boots or cages.
- Always keep bird enclosures and equipment used at the sales facility as clean as possible.
- Remove manure or mud from surfaces first or the disinfectant will not work.
- Remember disinfectant is not effective on dirt, mud, caked-on manure, or accumulated dust. You must clean with soap and water first then apply disinfectant.

Don't Haul Disease Home

- Always be on the alert to prevent ways of poultry sales participants from bringing disease to their birds from the sales facility.
- During poultry sales, auctions, and swap meets, watch for signs of disease. Tell participants to keep purchased birds separate from their other birds in a quarantine area for three weeks to one month after the sales event.
- Also tell participants to avoid physical contact with their birds for at least a day after being around other poultry at the sales event.
- Provide hand sanitation areas around the sales facility for participants to disinfect hands.
- As a courtesy to participants, sales facilities could provide a wash area for vehicles to allow for cleaning after the sales event. A pressure washer is useful to clean tires and undercarriages and to dislodge any dirt. Participants should consider cleaning the interiors of their vehicles with a cloth and disinfectant because disease agents can be transported by hands and feet.

Don't Borrow Disease

- Sales facilities should allow the use of cleaned and disinfected sales facility equipment.
- Equipment of other bird owners should not be used for other birds at the sale.
- Tell participants that if they plan to bring equipment home after the sale, that they should clean and disinfect it before bringing it to their property where their birds are located.

Know the Warning Signs for Infectious Diseases

- Poultry sales, auctions, and swap meet organizers should not allow sick birds to enter the sales or swap meet facility.
- Diseases can be difficult to diagnose, but one can recognize potential problems and contact a veterinarian to diagnose the disease.
- Some poultry diseases are avian influenza, Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis, infectious laryngotracheitis, infectious bursal disease, infectious coryza, and mycoplasmosis.



High mortality and sudden death of birds at the sale should be reported immediately.

Signs of disease to look for include:

- Weight loss;
- Sneezing, coughing, gasping for air, nasal discharged, or greenish watery diarrhea;
- Listlessness, muscular tremors, drooping wings;
- Twisting of head or neck;
- Complete paralysis;
- Swelling around eyes and neck;
- Lameness and tumors; or
- Sudden death.

Report Sick Birds

- To report sick birds, contact your local veterinarian, the State Veterinarian's office at 402-471-2351 or the USDA at 866-536-7593.
- State labs can provide low-cost diagnostic services. Sales participants can take their sick or dead birds to these labs. The diagnostic lab in Nebraska is the University of Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center (UNL-VDC) at 402-472-1434.
- It is important to diagnose and stop a disease before it spreads.

Nebraska Live Poultry Sales - Biosecurity Checklist

The following checklist is provided to assist live market poultry sales owners and operators in following the **Nebraska Live Poultry Sales Biosecurity Guidelines**. Use this checklist in conjunction with the **Live Poultry Sales Biosecurity Guidelines**. Answer each question about biosecurity practices and score yourself according to your answer. As you answer each question, write down comments on how you can improve in this area. Repeat the checklist every month to make sure you are practicing good biosecurity.

This checklist applies to the following poultry sales facility:

Date: _____

Sale Facility: _____

Address: _____

Summary:

Area	Maximum Score	Facility Score
Education and Training	100	
Keeping Distance	100	
Keeping it Clean	150	
Hauling Disease Home	100	
Disease from Others	75	
Disease Signs and Mortality	50	
Reporting Disease	75	
Total	650	
Percentage	100%	

continued on next page

Education & Training	Question	Answer	Points	Score	Comments
Training	Has the sale operator or owner read and understood the Biosecurity Guidebook?	Yes=50 No=0	50		
Biosecurity Manual	Is the Biosecurity Guidebook readily available for reference?	Yes=50 No=0	50		

Examination	Are all birds examined before entry to the sale area?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
No Sick Birds	Are sick birds turned away from the sale facility?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Policy Notice	Is a sign posted stating the 'No Sick Bird' policy?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Footbath	Is there a footbath at the entrance to the sales facility?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Keeping Distance			100		

continued on next page

Keeping it Clean			150		
Cleaned and Disinfected (C&D) Before	Is the sales facility C&D before each event?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Hand Disinfection	Does the auctioneer use hand sanitizer before handling a new lot of birds?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Dirt and Manure	Is dirt and manure removed from surfaces or equipment before C&D?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
C&D Supplies	Are C&D supplies available for general use at the sales facility?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Premises and Equipment	Is the sales area and equipment regularly C&D?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
C&D After	Is sales facility C&D after each event?	Yes=25 No=0	25		

continued on next page

Hauling Disease Home			100		
New Bird(s)	Are participants told to keep new birds isolated from their flock for 3 weeks to 1 month?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Poultry Visitation	Are participants told to avoid physical contact with their birds for at least a day after attending the sale?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Hand Sanitizing	Do the sales facility have hand sanitizing stations?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Vehicle	Does the sales facility have a vehicle wash area?	Yes=25 No=0	25		

Disease from Others			75		
Equipment	Is the sales facility's equipment C&D?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Sharing	Are participants discouraged from sharing equipment and cages?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Outside Equipment	Are participants told they should C&D equipment before taking it back to their premises?	Yes=25 No=0	25		

continued on next page

Disease Signs and Mortality			50		
Mortality and Signs	Is it known how to report high mortality and sudden death immediately? Are common signs of poultry disease known?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Veterinarian	Do you know the name and telephone number of a local veterinarian?	Yes=25 No=0	25		

Reporting Disease			75		
Veterinarian	Do you know the contact information for your local veterinarian or the State Veterinarian's office to report disease?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Laboratory	Do you know the contact information for the UNL-VDC?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
USDA	Do you know you can call USDA at 866-536-7593 to report poultry disease?	Yes=25 No=0	25		
Total			650		