

REPORT SICK BIRDS.....

- Report die-offs or unusual sickness in domestic poultry or wild birds so incidents may be investigated. Early detection can make a difference!
- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have stepped up surveillance for Avian Influenza in domestic poultry and wild birds.
- **Domestic Birds**
 - Report unusual sickness or die-offs in domestic poultry to Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry at 850-410-0900, or after hours 1-800-342-5869.
- **Wild Birds**
 - Report dead wild birds to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at <http://MyFWC.com/bird> or to your local FWC Office.

Know the warning signs of infectious bird diseases:

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock.
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and nasal discharge.
- Watery and green diarrhea.
- Lack of energy and poor appetite.
- Drop in egg production
- Swelling around the eyes, neck and head.
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs.
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement.

How to protect your flock:

- Keep your distance by limiting traffic onto and off of your property.
- Keep it clean; use bleach or other disinfectant on your shoes, clothes, hands, cages, equipment and vehicle tires. Dispose of dead birds properly.
- Don't haul diseases home; if you have been around other birds follow steps above, if you have shown your birds at fairs or exhibitions keep them separated from the rest of the flock for 2 weeks after the event and new birds should be kept separated for at least 30 days.
- Know the warning signs of diseases; early detection is important to preventing the spread of disease.
- Report sick birds – domestic and/or wild.



Division of Animal Industry

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner

How to protect yourself.....

For Bird Handlers:

- Work in well-ventilated areas when working indoors.
- Work upwind of birds to decrease risk of inhaling aerosols such as dust, feathers or dander, when working outdoors.
- When possible, wear rubber or latex gloves that are disposable or can be disinfected.
- When possible, wear protective eye wear or face shield while handling birds.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Disinfect work surfaces and equipment.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling birds.

For Hunters and others handling birds:

- Precautions should include hand washing, proper food preparation and clean up, and thorough cooking.
- Do not handle or eat sick game.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game, and thoroughly wash hands and all knives, equipment and surfaces that come in contact with game.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling animals.
- Avian influenza viruses are destroyed by heat and not transmitted through cooked food. All fowl should be cooked thoroughly (well done or 160 degrees F).

