



# H5N1 Avian Flu (Bird Flu)

Recommendations for farmers and  
backyard flock owners

Birds infected with avian influenza viruses  
may show one or more of the following  
signs:

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of head, comb, eyelid, wattles, and hocks

**If you see any sign of  
illness in your birds,  
immediately report it  
to your local vet or  
the USDA (1-866-536-  
7593)**



- Do not touch sick or dead birds without wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Always put on and take off PPE in separate, clean areas.
- Always wear PPE when touching their feces or litter, or any surface or water source (such as ponds, buckets, or troughs) that might be contaminated with their saliva, feces, or any other body fluids.
- As best as possible, avoid stirring up dust, bird waste, and feathers to prevent virus from dispersing into the air.
- Recommended PPE includes:
  - properly-fitted unvented or indirectly vented safety goggles
  - disposable gloves
  - boots or boot covers
  - NIOSH-approved respirator (N95)
  - disposable fluid-resistant coveralls
  - disposable head cover or hair cover

