

# Protecting Backyard Flocks

Good hygiene and commonsense practices help prevent disease.

## What is avian influenza?

- Virus is carried by migratory waterfowl (ducks and geese).
- Domestic poultry (chickens and turkeys) are susceptible.
- Virus originated in Asia and spread into Canada through wild geese and ducks.
- Migratory bird flyways cross the United States.



Cover coops and runs.

Wear dedicated clothing and shoes.



Wash hands before and after entering coop.

Lock all birds in coop and run.



Change food and water daily.



Remove birdhouses, feeders, and baths.



Clean and disinfect equipment in contact with birds or droppings.



Avoid feed stores, vet offices, and other places with small flocks, as much as possible.

## How is the disease transmitted?

- Foot traffic.
- Secretions from mouth, nostrils, eyes, excrement.
- Contact with infected droppings.
- Movement of infected birds.
- Contaminated clothing and equipment.

**extension**  
ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

**UGA**  
**extension**