



Avian Influenza Preparations & Precautions

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Highly Pathogenic AI is easily transmitted among birds and will kill the ones that are infected. Water fowl do not get sick from the AI virus but are carriers of the disease. Water fowl and infected birds will shed the virus through their droppings and other secretions. Therefore it is important to prevent poultry from coming into contact with water fowl and other wild birds. The Georgia Department of Agriculture, USDA and UGA have been working together to make sure that poultry producers and backyard flock owners are aware of the risk this Fall as migratory birds travel south. The key is prevention and the fundamental part of prevention is BIOSECURITY. Poultry producers (and backyard flock owners) should take steps to prevent contact with wild birds and other animals that may have been in areas with wild birds. Poultry producers should dedicate shoes and even clothing to each house. These shoes and coveralls should be put on prior to entering the bird area of the poultry house. Prior to entry it is highly encourage that people step in either a dry or liquid foot bath to disinfect shoes. More information on AI, its symptoms and prevention can be found at

<http://extension.uga.edu/topics/poultry/avian-flu>.

If you have a flock of birds that experience high mortality or are exhibiting signs of respiratory disease you should call the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network Avian Influenza Hotline at 770-766-6850.