



# Protect your birds from the risk of disease

## Good biosecurity is vital

Many avian diseases, including avian influenza, Newcastle disease, salmonella and campylobacter are spread by direct bird-to-bird contact through secretions and faeces, and indirectly through contaminated feed, water, equipment, boots etc.

Good biosecurity will minimise the risk to your farm and key tactics are outlined overleaf. If in doubt about how to apply these to your farm seek advice from your vet.



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



**defra**

Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs

# Protect your birds from the risk of disease

## Feed and Water

- Buy from a reputable mill or supplier.
- Supply clean, fresh drinking water.
- Prevent access by wild birds and other animals.
- Keep under cover where possible.

## Premises

- Keep birds separate from wild birds and other animals where possible.
- Keep premises clean and tidy and free from vermin.

## Vehicles and Visitors

- Keep visitors away from your birds as far as possible.
- Avoid sharing equipment where possible.
- Clean and disinfect all vehicles, equipment, clothes, footwear and hands before and after use.
- Provide facilities for cleansing and disinfecting.

## Livestock

- Use reputable sources to purchase new stock.
- Isolate new birds and birds that you have taken off your premises for an appropriate period.

## Be Vigilant

- Disease is much more easily controlled if it is caught early; look out for signs of disease, which can include:
  - breathing problems
  - loss of weight
  - falling egg production.
- Inspect birds daily (disease can be present before the birds look ill).

**If you suspect disease, act quickly and consult your vet. Avian influenza and Newcastle disease are notifiable and must be reported to your local Animal Health Office.**

## For more information

Visit the Defra website at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk), the Scottish Executive website at [www.scotland.gov.uk/biosecurity](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/biosecurity), the Welsh Assembly Government website at <http://new.wales.gov.uk/> or phone the Helpline on 08459 33 55 77.