

Tips For Keeping Your **Turkeys** Healthy



Biosecurity

The practice of following good disease-prevention every day to protect your animals' health. While disease prevention can sometimes feel like an intimidating concept meant only for massive commercial operations, do not let that stop you from taking steps to improve your animals health and protect them from diseases. Biosecurity is especially critical for owners of rare breeds because small populations make them especially vulnerable.

At Home



Make a Plan: build a biosecurity that works for your farm and stick to it!



Observe Your Flock: Learn what is normal behavior, and what the signs of disease are.



Keep it Clean: Wash your hands and boots before and after working with your flock.



Prevent Mingling: Keep other poultry and wild birds away from your flock.



Isolate any animals that are sick away from the rest of the flock.



Track Traffic: Limit visits to and visitors from other farms.

Diseases of Concern

Blackhead Disease

- Cause: Fatal parasite
- Signs: Sulfur-yellow droppings, drooping wings, sudden death.
- Action: No cure. Prevent by keeping turkeys strictly separated from chickens.

Fowl Cholera

- Cause: Bacteria
- Signs: Swollen snoods, green diarrhea, sudden flock death.
- Action: Treat with antibiotics. Prevent with aggressive pest control.

Avian Influenza (HPAI)

- Cause: Deadly virus
- Signs: Purple wattles, swollen eyes,
- Action: No cure. Prevent by covering outdoor runs as a barrier to wild birds.

Exhibition Biosecurity

Before the Show:

- Ensure you have completed any required health certifications.
- Wash and disinfect all transport cages.

At the Show:

- Do not allow your turkeys to have direct contact with birds from other flocks
- Ask visitors to sanitize their hands before approaching your pens.

After the Show:

- Quarantine all returning show turkeys for a minimum of 30 days, completely isolated from your home flock.
- Always care for your home flock first and your isolated show birds last.
- Clean boots and hands between groups.



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