

10 FARMING TIPS POULTRY HEALTH



- ✦ **Recognize the signs of disease in poultry.** Many diseases present with the same symptoms: ruffled feathers, lethargy, decreased appetite.
- ✦ **Symptoms of avian influenza** may include purple combs/wattles, a drop in egg production or quality, open mouth breathing, and wheezing.
- ✦ **Biosecurity keeps your birds safe.** Don't mix new additions to the established flock without quarantine period of 21-30 days.
- ✦ **Separate any sick birds from the flock** and handle them after you handle the healthy birds to avoid spreading disease.
- ✦ Check that your chicken's diet provides **complete and balanced nutrition** based on the bird's life stage and purpose.
- ✦ Always **switch feeds slowly** to avoid gastrointestinal problems. Feed transitions can be made gradually over 1-2 weeks.
- ✦ **Keep feed fresh** and remove uneaten feed. Treats such as mealworms, scratch grains, fresh fruit and veggies may be provided occasionally.
- ✦ **Always provide your birds with fresh water** and monitor your waterers. Chickens eat less in hot weather, but drink more.
- ✦ **Wild birds can spread disease to domestic poultry:** protect coops, pens, and food from wild birds and other wildlife.
- ✦ **Report sick birds to the NMLB** if you have increased mortality, unexplained or multiple sick birds or changes in behavior.