

AgNews



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Winter time awareness and vigilance are critical State Vet reminds commercial poultry growers that biosecurity practices are the key to disease prevention

Cold weather can take its toll on birds and animals as well as humans. Delaware State Veterinarian, Dr. Heather Hirst, reminds poultry growers to be vigilant and heighten biosecurity practices to help prevent a variety of poultry diseases such as Laryngotracheitis (LT), Avian Influenza, and Newcastle Disease. The aforementioned diseases are viral in nature and may be easily transmitted via aerosols, dead birds, contaminated feed, visitors, and so forth. Good biosecurity practices, such as those listed below, are critical in preventing the introduction of such viruses into flocks.

DO's

- Only permit authorized visitors to the farm.
- Have all visitors sign in, stating the reason for their visit, and have them comply with biosecurity requirements.
- All poultry caretakers should utilize farm-dedicated shoes and clothes.
- Only utilize State and company-approved dead bird disposal procedures.
- Properly clean and disinfect all non-farm-dedicated equipment prior to entering poultry house while birds are present.

DO NOT's

- Don't visit or associate with Live Bird Markets or the Live Bird Market System.
- Don't keep any other fowl, wild, exotic, pet, or domestic birds on or nearby the commercial broiler area.
- Don't allow anyone close to your chicken houses without knowing whether they may pose a risk to your flock.
- Don't allow your farm help to raise their own birds or work on poultry farms other than yours.
- Don't use shared equipment that has been to other farms when live poultry are present.
- Don't allow any animal to scavenge dead birds from your farm.
- Don't use common dead bird disposal for multiple farms or multiple farm pickup of dead birds.

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