

# Protecting Backyard Flocks

## From Avian Influenza



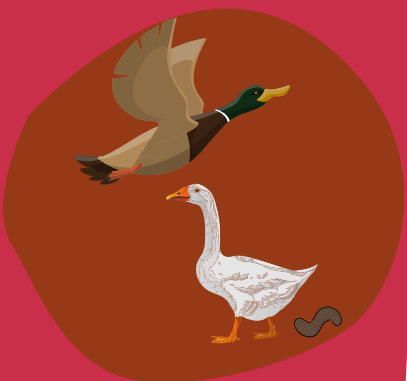
**Cover chicken coops and runs to prevent comingling with waterfowl.**

**Wear dedicated clothing and shoes that should never leave your farm**



**Wash hands before and after working with birds.**

**Keep all birds in coop to prevent contamination with waterfowl droppings.**



**Change food and water daily.**

**Remove birdhouses, feeders, and baths used by wild birds.**



**Clean and disinfect equipment in contact with birds or droppings, including cellphones.**

**After visiting places where poultry owners congregate, clean your boots before caring for your own birds.**



### What is Avian Influenza (AI)?

- AI is a virus carried by migratory waterfowl (ducks and geese).
- Domestic poultry (chickens, turkeys, fowl) are susceptible and will become very sick.
- Migratory bird flyways cross the United States. Maryland is in the Atlantic Flyway.

### KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS!

- ✓ Lack of energy and appetite
- ✓ Decreased egg production or softened/misshapen eggs
- ✓ Swelling of the head, eyelids, and comb
- ✓ Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs
- ✓ Stumbling, falling down, diarrhea
- ✓ Sudden death



### HOW IS THE DISEASE TRANSMITTED IN BIRDS?

- Foot traffic
- Secretions from birds' mouths, nostrils, eyes, excrement
- Contact with infected droppings
- Movement of infected birds
- Contaminated clothing and equipment

**Report unusual illnesses, deaths and high mortalities to 410-841-5810**



### REGISTER YOUR FLOCK!

**Backyard poultry in Maryland MUST be registers with MDA!**