



British Egg Industry Council

UK Poultry Health and Welfare Group

5 Key Take Home Points in preventing Notifiable Avian Disease

1. Biosecurity, Biosecurity, Biosecurity!

- Between farms, between sheds (by the time you know you have AI, if biosecurity is poor, you'll have spread it between sheds) and between the house and the outside (ingress from vermin/birds, fomites or dirty water)
- Train staff on why biosecurity is important. Step up biosecurity at times of high risk to show staff that things have changed
- Remember biosecurity doesn't just reduce the risk of AI, it also reduces the risk of endemic diseases

2. External fomites: Avoid introducing infection

- Especially litter bales (and other equipment) stored outside and contaminated with wild bird faecal matter that are brought inside without disinfection

3. Maintenance strategy for sites/buildings

- Assess all buildings, effective repair of leaking roofs, flood prevention
- The site entrance tells visitors how seriously you take biosecurity
- Prevent wild bird and vermin ingress (rats/mice can be carriers of faeces contaminated with AI). Make the site unattractive to pests

4. Farm environment

- Site entrance restriction (people, vehicles, equipment, birds)
- Avoid attracting wild birds, achieve good vermin control
- Drainage to reduce faecal/soil pooling/flooding on hardstanding or areas between sheds, and ensure sites have 'effective' foot dips (boots need to be washed first as dirt inactivates disinfectants) and barrier hygiene between and into sheds
- Consider restricting access to open water e.g. netting open water (like the containment ponds at airports that are netted to reduce the wild bird risk to aircraft / wires across larger ponds)

5. Clear company or farm AI prevention strategy and procedures – reflecting all of the above

- Reducing crossover between sites; visitor books; have a standard checklist; fallen stock. (This allows APHA to make 'informed' decisions about tracings and restrictions from an Infected premises)
- It's not just a set of rules: Train and Motivate!
- Companies need to lead from the top, managers, senior staff, vets - need to be seen practising biosecurity and taking it seriously
- Implement effective and practical biosecurity – What do you want to do?, what can you do?, what **DO** you do?