Oh no, I think my birds are sick…

Managing Poultry Disease on your Farm

Infectious Disease is a numbers game…

Infected birds act as "*incubators*", reproducing 100,000s of particles of infectious viruses and bacteria until they are either:

A. die/are culled or

B. treated/develop immunity → shedding stops

THEREFORE

The sooner a diagnosis is made and the appropriate treatment (if available) is initiated, there is less environmental contamination by the infectious agent → spread is reduced → fewer birds sick

The tools we rely on…

- ***Lots of LUCK!***

- ***BIOSECURITY MEASURES***
  - Keeps infectious agents OUT (isolation)
  - Reduces CHALLENGE (sanitation)
  - Aids CONTAINMENT if introduced (quarantine)
- ***OPTIMIZING BIRD HEALTH***
  - Reduces stress, promotes immunity
- ***SKILLED DIAGNOSTICS***
  - Field Experience/Intuition
  - Formal (vets & vet labs)
  - Timely & Appropriate Treatment

DISEASE MANAGEMENT BASICS

- Know your birds
- Keep good records
- Seek a prompt disease diagnosis **SEE YOUR VET**
- Self-quarantine
- Isolate affected birds (TLC, treat, cull)
- Appropriate treatment
- Cleaning & Disinfection
- Disease prevention & monitoring
- Buy healthy replacement birds

What contributes to the health of poultry?

Genetic Potential

Housing

Husbandry

Nutrition

Vaccination

Veterinary Care and Prevention

Biosecurity

Protection

Clean Water

The FLAWS of good management

A management assessment checklist

What are the FLAWS?

- F Feed
- L Light
- L Litter
- A Air
- W Water
- S Space
- S Sanitation
- S Security

Getting Started

What things do you need to think about?

- What type of bird
- Housing
- Acquiring your birds
- Feeding
- Dead birds
- Manure management
- Processing

Getting Started:

What type of bird do you want?

- Chicken, turkey, duck
- Show or production
- Meat or eggs
- Hatching eggs or table eggs
- Personal use or farm gate sales
- Chicks or point-of-lay pullets

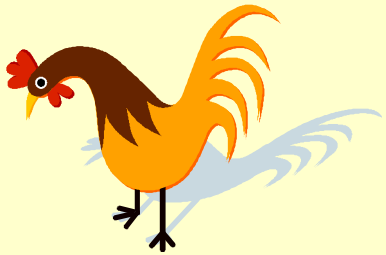
Where will you get your birds?

- Ideally an *accredited hatchery*
  - Quality control programs
  - Salmonella monitored
  - Breeder flock health programs, including vaccination
  - Accountablilty
- If acquiring chicks or birds from other fanciers, make sure you ask about health records; many diseases are spread through trading of birds

Self-Quarantine:

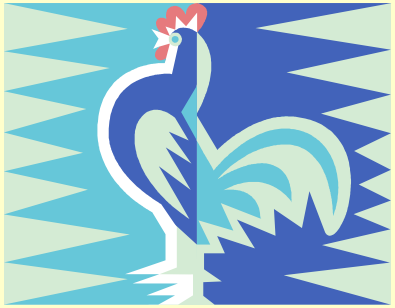
What to do if you suspect an infectious disease in your flock…

- Upon the *suspicion* of an infectious disease in a poultry flock, an owner can do certain things to limit the spread of disease between birds, and most importantly, the spread of disease off the farm into neighbouring flocks.



Self-Quarantine: when to act

There has been an ***unexplained***:



- increase in mortality,
- onset of clinical signs of disease
  - Abnormal behaviour
  - Respiratory distress
  - Wet droppings, etc.
- sudden change in production parameters such as
  - feed/water consumption
  - egg production/shell quality, etc.

Self-Quarantine: ***GET AN ANSWER***

Seek help from your poultry health advisor

Describe the problem

- What do you see?
- When did it start?
- Are things getting worse or resolving over time?
- *Have there been birds recently introduced?*
- Offer your suspicions.
- Be able to provide copies of production and mortality records.

Start a diagnostic investigation

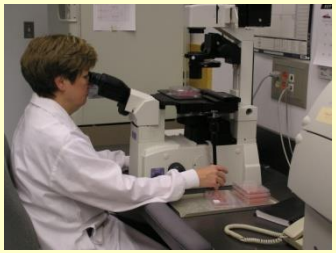
Call your VET

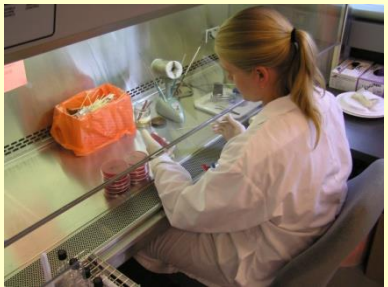
- Call ahead to discuss
- Provide samples as required
  - Sick birds
    - May have to sacrifice
  - Necropsy samples
  - Flock blood samples
  - Digital pictures

ANIMAL HEALTH CENTRE (AHC)

BC Ministry of Agriculture: Plant & Animal Health Branch

1767 Angus Campbell Rd
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3
1-800-661-9903





The Animal Health Centre (BC Vet Lab)

- The Animal Health Centre (AHC) is part of the **BC Ministry of Agriculture**, Plant & Animal Health Branch
- An effective passive surveillance tool for early detection of infectious diseases in poultry
  - Locally imbedded in the Fraser Valley where the majority of commercial poultry are located
  - Accept small flock submissions from all over the province
  - Subsidized small flock submissions
  - Dedicated poultry pathology/virology expertise
- Accredited
  - AAVLD
  - CAHLN AI-network lab
    - CFIA will respond to an AHC detection
- CL-3 FAD lab

Submitting Birds

- Lab open 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday
- Birds can be brought in by producer, vet, feed rep, courier, etc.
- If birds are shipped, they should be frozen prior to shipping or kept on ice
- Submission form available on Ministry of Agriculture website
- Indicate reason for submission (e.g., spike in mortality, decreased production) and disease suspected

Testing Procedure

- Necropsy (aka Gross Examination)
  - Examination of organs and tissues, looking for signs of specific diseases (or non-specific changes)
  - Selection of tissues for ancillary testing
- Ancillary testing
  - Bacteriology
  - Parasitology
  - PCR
    - Test for DNA of different organisms
    - Each test specific to one organism, or group of organisms
    - E.g., Influenza, Newcastle disease, Mycoplasma gallisepticum, ILT, infectious coryza

Self-Quarantine: ***WHILE YOU WAIT***

Follow the advice of your veterinarian.

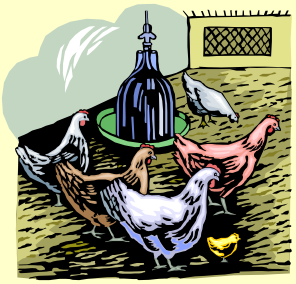
- Base initial treatment of the flock on the disease suspected (treat exposed birds to prevent, affected birds to cure).
- Restrict access to farm and ***suspend all unnecessary traffic*.**
- Hold back product sales.

Immediately adopt enhanced biosecurity.

- Attend unaffected birds first.
- Follow strict personal biosecurity procedures for between barns/flocks and for leaving the farm e.g. non-farm clothing, footwear and vehicle
- Postpone movements of birds on or off the farm.
- Dispose of dead/culled birds in an approved method. **Treat as infectious material.**

Self-Quarantine: *WHEN A DIAGNOSIS IS CONFIRMED*

- Modify or initiate flock treatment as directed by your veterinarian.
- Enhanced on-farm biosecurity procedures should be followed for **at least 10-14 days** following the end of treatment or the resolution of clinical signs.
- Continue to monitor for disease reoccurrence in the same or subsequent flocks:
  - watch for clinical signs
  - submit follow-up samples
- Consider all-in/all-out management style if possible.



Self-Quarantine = lock down

STEP 1. GET AN ANSWER

- *diagnostics*

STEP 2. WHILE YOU WAIT

- *inform key players*
- *monitor & best guess treat*
- *enhanced biosecurity*
- *suspend product sales & visitors*
- *postpone bird movement on/off*

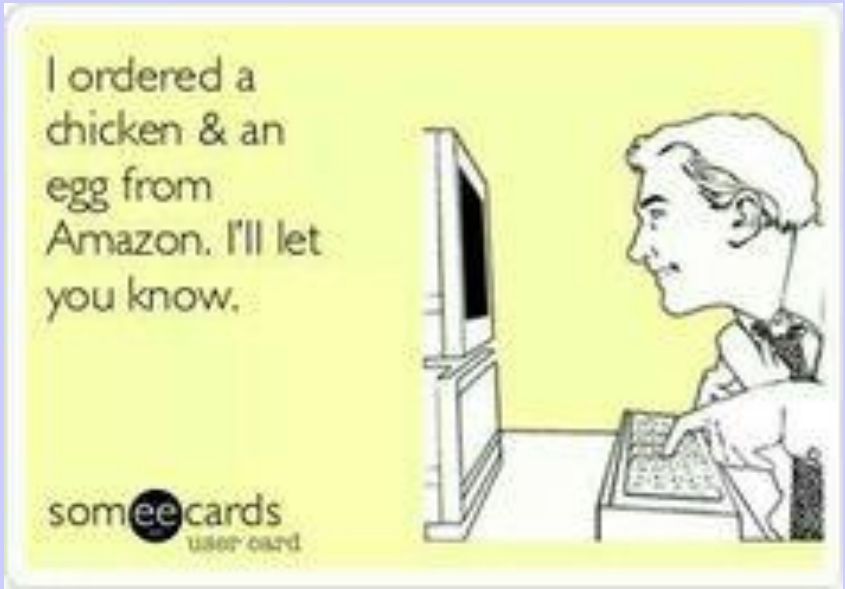
STEP 3. WHEN A DIAGNOSIS IS CONFIRMED

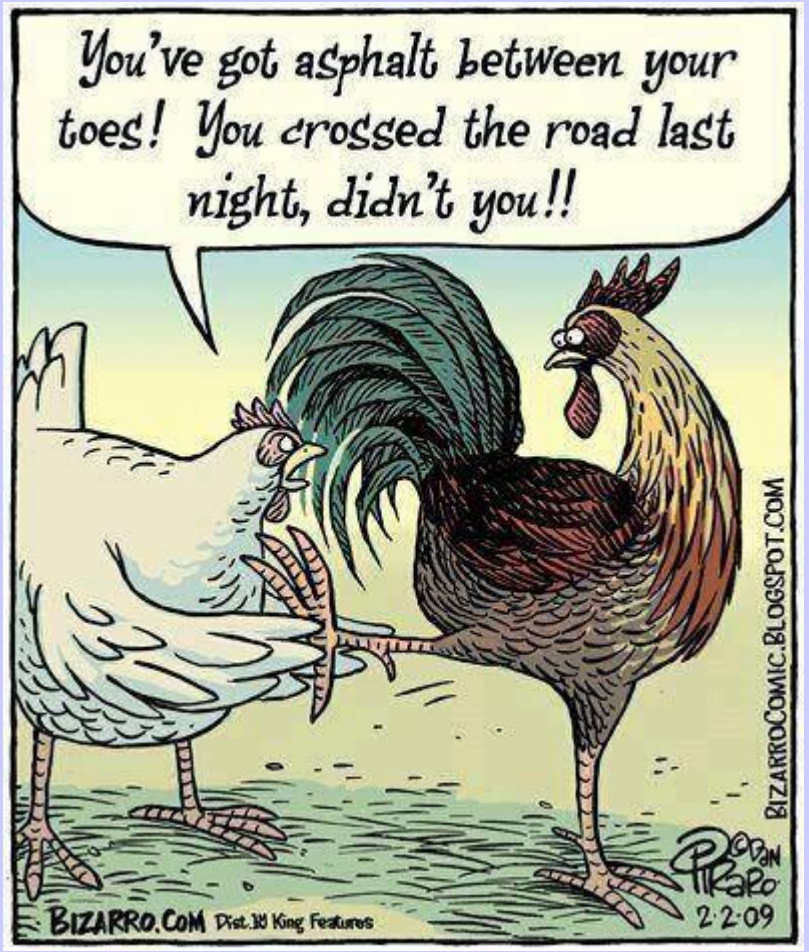
- *manage flock within the context of the disease; modify treatment*
- *continued enhanced biosecurity*

STEP 4. GETTING BACK TO NORMAL

- *C & D*
- *monitor for disease reoccurrence*
- *Submit follow-up samples*

Questions?


I ordered a chicken & an egg from Amazon. I'll let you know.
someecards
user card


You've got asphalt between your toes! You crossed the road last night, didn't you!!
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