**Avian Influenza (bird flu)**

A highly infectious virus that infects domestic poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, quail, and pheasants, and wild birds such as geese and ducks.

**6 ways to protect your birds**

1. **Keep your distance**
   Restrict access to your property and keep your birds away from other birds.

2. **Keep it clean**
   Wash your hands thoroughly before and after working with your birds. Clean and disinfect equipment.

3. **Don’t haul disease home**
   Buy birds from reputable sources and keep new birds separated for at least 30 days.

4. **Don’t borrow disease**
   Do not share equipment or supplies with neighbors or other bird owners. If you must borrow, disinfect it first.

5. **Know the warning signs**
   Early detection can help prevent the spread of the disease. Check your birds frequently. If you find a sick or dead bird, don’t touch it.

6. **Report sick birds**
   Don’t wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call your veterinarian or notify the state veterinarian at 701-328-2655.

Bird flu spreads quickly by direct bird-to-bird contact. Viruses can be carried by manure, tools, equipment, vehicles, egg flats, crates, clothing and shoes. Migratory waterfowl can also carry the disease.

**What are the signs of bird flu?**

- Lack of energy or appetite
- Decreased egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Runny nose, coughing, sneezing
- Stumbling or falling down
- Diarrhea
- Sudden death without any clinical signs