

# Top Tips to Keep Your Birds Safe

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
EXTENSION

## GROWER LUNCH BREAK NOTES

June 1, 2022

Watch the recording of this talk here: <https://tinyurl.com/4hdypsyh>

This topic was covered by our UMD and UD Extension Agents, Jon Moyle, Jenny Rhodes, Georgie Cartanza, with additional information from Dr. Mostafa Ghanem

Target Points to Keep Your Birds Safe:

- Keep it Simple!
  - Train family and employees - keeping training simple, it will more likely followed
  - Document training program, keep records. Have employees sign off that they completed
  - If you need a training program, go to: <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/animal-science/poultry/videos>
- What's on the Farm Stays on the Farm
  - Farm trucks, clothes, buckets, etc. should not leave the farm
  - If it's on the farm, leave it at the farm, don't take to town!
- Limit Visitors Unless Absolutely Necessary
  - Heightened sense of Biosecurity
  - If you've been around any wild birds, do not come near any type of confined poultry, commercial or backyard
  - Wear disposable gear when entering a property: hairnet, N95 mask, coveralls, boots, gloves
- Footbaths
  - Disinfects - does NOT clean
  - All organic material should be removed BEFORE (Georgie gives great example of boot cleaning)
  - Disinfectant should be changed often
  - Shallow tub, container, boot mat with sides can serve as a footbath
  - Disinfectants such as: Gil Bio Bleach-Organic Chlorine Bleach; Virkon S; Clorox Germicidal Bleach
- Dedicated Footwear for Each Barn
  - Travel from one area to another in different shoes - non-rubber boots more difficult to clean
  - Specific footwear does not leave that barn
  - Disposable boot covers; use only in one building or coop
- Clean Cell Phones!
  - Take case off and clean inside it as well



Some may say dedicated footwear or disposable boots cost too much money...  
I ask what can you afford to lose?

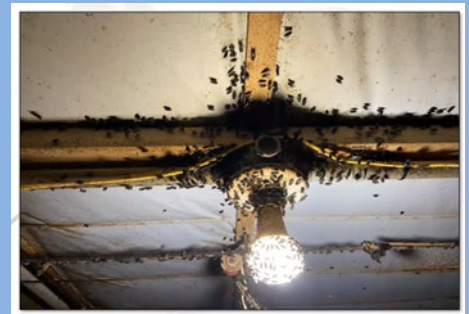
The cost of clean & disinfected footwear...

- \$25 to \$50 / Coop
- Disposable boots \$20 for 25 pair
- Footbath \$20
- Disinfectant \$10
- Time to clean ?

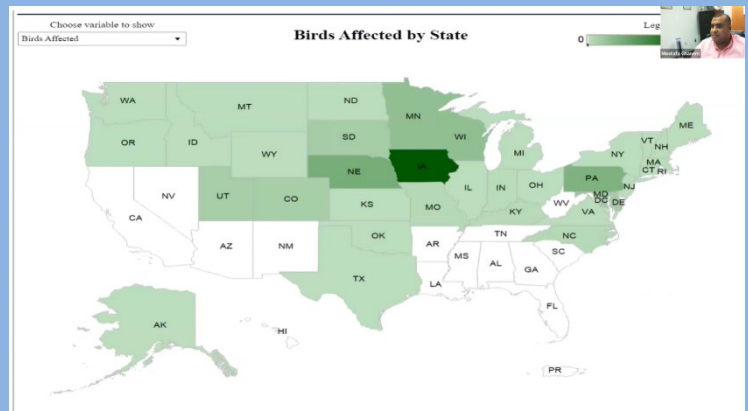
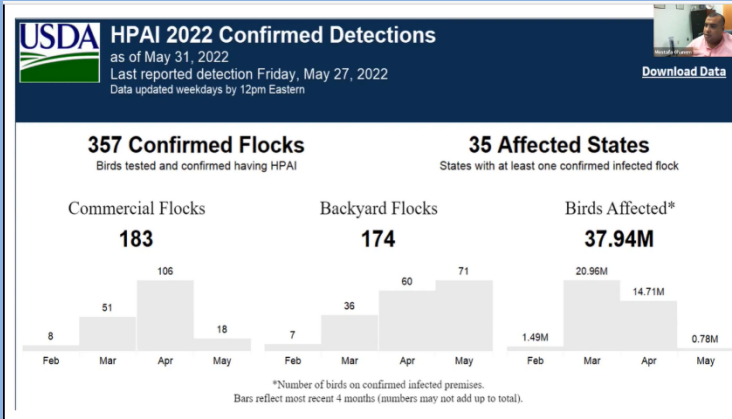
The cost of losing a flock and or being without a flock...

- Depopulation, disposal, disinfection
- Loss of income for downtime
- Fellow poultry growers loss of income

- Close End Doors
  - No reason to have end doors open
  - Raccoon, mice, wild fowl, buzzards all have access and can spread disease
  - Disease prevention and aesthetics - be a good neighbor
- Clean Feed Spills
  - Could be considered a discharge with your Dept. of Environment
  - Attracts other animals, other birds, flies
  - Clean it up as quickly as you can
- Manage Mortality Correctly
  - Seeing much better management of this in recent years
  - Remove and properly dispose of dead birds - don't leave dead birds laying around
    - Inside of houses it can spread disease
    - Outside of houses it can attract vermin plus it looks bad
    - Unburied mortality in composters, again, attracts vermin and other pests
  - Discourage Buzzards with fake coyotes, eagles, etc. - moving decoys every so often
- Compost Correctly
  - Do it right
    - Layers and cap the layers with 10-12 inches of litter cover
  - Or manage mortality correctly with freezers, rotary or vessel drum composting
- Control Flies
  - Lot of calls this year about flies
  - Notes / Recording of Dr. Zebelos' May 4th talk on Flies: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/grower-lunch-breaks>
  - The more we can manage flies, the better our chickens will be - flies carry disease
- Keep Service Room Clean
  - A clean service room helps prevention of spreading disease



- Garbage Dumpster Site
  - Move when full, out away from the poultry houses
  - Also have other delivery trucks stop away from your houses, at the end of your lane if possible
- Dr. Mostafa Ghanem Slides of Outbreak
  - HPAI is still very much in our area
  - Economic Impact in US: Layers: 29.6M depopulations; Broilers: 2.4M depop.; Turkeys: 5.5M



- We are always striving to do better, but the Broilers percentage of loss is a lot was not as considerable as layers and turkeys - growers' biosecurity measures have been very effective!
- We had the potential to be more impacted on Delmarva - we did an excellent job, as terrifying as it was, to stop it at just two sites
- **Vegetative Buffers**
  - Discourage migratory birds from landing near poultry facilities
  - Anything you can do to discourage birds from landing near poultry houses, do it!
    - Put up shimmer tape or anything that discourage and buffers really help

**\*\*\*IF YOU WATCH THE VIDEO** (linked above) some nutrient management credits for Delaware are available for a couple of days. While you watch, you will get more information on how to receive credits. Then go to [https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eKjpHoz3Jik6JIW](https://delaware.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eKjpHoz3Jik6JIW)

**\*\*\*EVENT: VEGETATIVE / POLLINATOR BUFFERS DEMO DAY** - Friday, June 10, 11-1:00, at Lower Eastern Shore Research & Education Center, 27664 Nanticoke Road, Salisbury, MD, 21801 (black mailbox, white LESREC sign, dark green chain link fence) Register at <https://nanticokeriver.org/chicken/> or call Delmarva Chicken Assn. at 302-856-9037 ex. 106. Inviting poultry growers to see vegetative BMPs. LUNCH will be provided.

As always, look for coming events on and more Poultry information at: <https://extension.umd.edu/programs/agriculture-food-systems/program-areas/animal-science/poultry>

*Your Poultry Extension Team:*    *Jon Moyle, [jmoyle@umd.edu](mailto:jmoyle@umd.edu)*  
   *Jenny Rhodes, [jrhodes@umd.edu](mailto:jrhodes@umd.edu)*  
   *Mostafa Ghanem, [mghanem@umd.edu](mailto:mghanem@umd.edu)*  
   *Georgie Cartanza, [cartanza@udel.edu](mailto:cartanza@udel.edu)*  
   *Jennifer Timmons, [jtimmons1@umes.edu](mailto:jtimmons1@umes.edu)*

