

# Biosecurity for Small Flocks - Fact Sheet

Biosecurity protocols are intended to prevent the transfer of disease between and to flocks<sup>1</sup>.

**Basic biosecurity principles include:**

Prevention

Containment

Bird Health

## What You Can Do to Prevent and Contain Illness, and promote Bird Health...

### *Access Management*

- ◆ Restrict visitors' movement on-farm
- ◆ Limit contact that poultry have with wild birds and wild bird droppings
- ◆ Do not share equipment with other bird owners

### *Health Management*

- ◆ Watch all your birds carefully for unusual behaviour, or increased mortalities
- ◆ Quarantine new birds for 30 days and only get birds from a reputable source with similar biosecurity measures

### *Operational Management*

- ◆ Employ farm management practices that support the health and welfare of your poultry
- ◆ Adopt feeding and watering management practices that focus on clean, fresh, good quality, and include a balanced feed ration
- ◆ Have adequate ventilation in poultry houses/buildings
- ◆ Adopt good manure management and mortality management practices (the Agriculture Environmental Management Code of Practice details requirements for both)
- ◆ Ensure effective cleaning and disinfection protocols

### *Cleaning and Disinfection*

- ◆ Remove organic materials (litter, manure, dust) prior to disinfection
- ◆ Thoroughly clean all animal facilities (ceiling, walls, floor, perches), barn tools, feeders, waterers
- ◆ A minimum of 21 days downtime is recommended between flocks<sup>2</sup>

### *References & Links*

<sup>1</sup>Animal Health Centre, BC Ministry of Agriculture. (2011). [Small Flock Poultry Health](#).

<sup>2</sup>Serecon Management Consulting Inc. for IAF BC. (2013, March 7). [Biosecurity Guide for Non-Supply Managed Poultry](#).

For other resources [www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/agriculture](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/agriculture)

