



# ✓ Checklist: Tips for Reporting Unusual Mortality

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- Know when to worry:** Some bird death is normal. A large percentage of dead or dying birds in your flock is not normal.
- Rule out obvious causes,** such as predators, weather issues, or other external factors. You don't need to report those bird deaths, but consider addressing the root cause so you can keep it from happening again.
- If you see signs of illness in your flock, make note of what you're seeing.**
- Report any signs of illness** or unexplained deaths to animal health officials right away. This will help prevent the spread of disease and protect neighboring flocks.

**Look for signs of illness:**

- *Reduced energy or appetite*
- *Lower egg production; soft-shelled or misshapen eggs*
- *Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and shanks*
- *Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs*
- *Difficulty breathing*
- *Runny nose, sneezing*
- *Twisting of the head and neck*
- *Stumbling or falling down*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Decreased activity*
- *Tremors*
- *Circling*
- *Complete stiffness*

## Report Sick Birds

If you see signs of illness, take action right away!

Cooperative Extension Office  
New York State Department of  
Agriculture and Markets  
USDA

Phone Number

518-457-3502

866.536.7593

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).

