

DISEASE PREVENTION CHECKLIST



What is your disease prevention score? Use this list to rate your poultry operation. A score of 80 or better is outstanding, 70 to 79 excellent, 60 to 69 good, 50 to 59 just fair, and 49 or less indicates a definite need for improvement.

A. Score 5 points for each "yes" answer.

- My poultry ranch has only a one-age flock ("all-in, all-out").
- My ranch is isolated from other poultry and from aviaries.
- My replacement birds are raised in isolation at a separate location.
- My vaccination and disease prevention programs are the result of veterinary consultation and are continually updated.

B. Score 4 points for each "yes" answer.

- I routinely meet with neighbors who own poultry and other birds to discuss health problems and to plan area disease prevention.
- My birds have been effectively vaccinated for each of the diseases prevalent in my area.
- I check sources of my replacement stock for disease problems.
- I do not purchase hens as a part of my replacement program.
- I have someone observe each flock every day for abnormal symptoms and maintain a daily diary of flock health.

- I routinely analyze my poultry production, feed consumption, and mortality records for signs of problems.
- Vehicles or people cannot enter my ranch or poultry houses without the manager's permission or knowledge.

C. Score 3 points for each "yes" answer.

- My poultry housing is animal and wild-bird proof.
- Houses are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between flocks.
- When vaccines are used, I record the brand name, serial numbers, expiration dates, and how they were used and by whom.
- I routinely have birds examined to monitor the health of my flocks.
- Trucks for dead birds do not enter my ranch.
- Dead birds are picked up daily from the houses and stored in tightly closed containers.
- I have a ranch communications system to minimize the movement of people on the ranch.
- Service crews working on my ranch bathe, put on clean clothing, and disinfect all equipment before they enter my ranch.
- For necessary visitors, I provide clean, disinfected coveralls and boots that do not puncture or tear.

- I never place more than one age-group in a single house.
- My employees do not travel to other poultry premises not under my control.
- Filler flats and egg racks are cleaned and sanitized before they are brought onto my ranch.

D. Score 2 points for each "yes" answer.

- All service vehicles entering my ranch are properly sanitized before entry and the drivers do not enter the poultry houses.
- All manure equipment is cleaned before coming on my ranch.
- Ranch employees work only in assigned areas; they do not go to other areas of the ranch.
- Dead birds are not carried from house to house.
- I have instructed my employees and service crews about poultry disease and about vaccination and treatment methods.

E. Score 1 point for each "yes" answer.

- My employees own no poultry.
- Poultry waste from other ranches is never spread on fields adjacent to my ranch.

- I have a continuous program to control mice and rats.
- I have an effective fly control program.
- All visitors to my ranch must sign a log-book.
- I regularly attend educational programs to keep abreast of new developments in disease control.

== TOTAL (perfect score = 100)

How did you score? If your total was less than 60, you should take a hard look at your operation. You have too much invested to leave these matters to chance. This checklist is just a start. Add to or change it to make it most useful to you.

But regardless of how well or how poorly you scored, list your weaknesses and, after consultation, establish your own priorities for improvement. Then do something about them!

This is one of a series of publications on Planned Disease Prevention, which includes all aspects of management to help prevent exposure of poultry to disease and to minimize the effects of disease. The publications have been prepared by University of California Agricultural Extension and Experiment Station personnel as part of a statewide poultry disease prevention project.

The University of California's Agricultural Extension Programs are available to all, without regard to race, color, or national origin.