



Avian paramyxovirus provides timely reminder to check on-farm biosecurity

Poultry producers and other bird owners are reminded to review their biosecurity measures following the highly infectious virus recently found in pigeons in Victoria.

Routine biosecurity measures: these procedures should be everyday practice.

- Keep equipment and poultry yards or aviaries clean.
- Quarantine new birds for at least 10 days before they enter the flock.
- Ensure wild birds and animals cannot come into contact with flocks or pet birds.
- Secure feed and water and ensure wild birds cannot gain access; prevent contamination by faeces or other animal waste.
- Wash hands and clean boots before entering bird housing facilities.
- Visitors/employees who have been in contact with other birds should not be allowed entry unless they take precautionary measures, such as showering, changing clothes and shoes etc.
- If attending bird shows, practise good hygiene; quarantine returning birds and feed and handle them last.

Additional biosecurity measures: These should be added to daily routines now, in light of the disease outbreak in pigeons.

- Ensure all vaccinations are up to date.
- Further restrict visitor and vehicle access.
- Where possible, stop movement of birds on, off and around the property.
- Minimise contact with your flock: restrict to feeding, cleaning and veterinary visits. Clean and disinfect common tools, footwear and clothing between aviaries and properties.

If an outbreak is declared, you will be required to follow biosecurity instructions issued by the chief veterinary officer or department of primary industries.

Further biosecurity information is available in the **National Poultry Biosecurity Manual**. Download from: www.farmbiosecurity.com.au, www.daff.gov.au

**EMERGENCY ANIMAL
DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE
1800 675 888**

Report any signs of sick birds

Media contact: Martin Blaszczyk, 02 6203 3988