



Canadian Heritage Breeds Newsletter

Spring 2022

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It's spring newsletter time, and there is lots of exciting news to share!

To start with, the results from the member survey conducted during the winter provided some great feedback. One dominant theme arose: while conservation of heritage breeds is a concern that unites us, the majority of the paid membership is made up of people whose main interest is poultry.

Poultry shows have been the focal point for CHB since the organization held it's first one in 2010. So while shows will continue to be the priority, the board has also been looking for other ways to offer support, guidance and encouragement to poultry keepers at all levels of experience. The Spring Market and More will be a great opportunity for new folks to find some good birds to start a flock, get answers to their breeding questions, and even get some help with assessing the quality of their chickens or waterfowl.

If you have babies, adult birds or hatching eggs to sell, this will be a fantastic opportunity to market them. Or, if you'd like to bring a few examples from your flock, there will be judges on hand to go through them with you to help determine their strengths or areas for improvement. There's no cost for this service, and it's a valuable way to pick up some good advice on how to improve your flock. Just let us know ahead so we can be prepared, as there will be demonstrations going on throughout the day. We are hoping for a great turn out, so please help us spread the word and encourage your friends to come!

We are also excited to announce some summer show plans! CHB will once again be partnering with Edmonton's K-Days for an exciting weekend of poultry and dairy goat shows. I know how fast summer weekends fill up, so make sure to reserve the July 23-24th weekend for K-Days.

It's wonderful to see that many clubs are once again feeling optimistic about hosting spring and summer sales and events. Hopefully these activities will be well-attended. Volunteer clubs have had a couple of years of struggles and are in need of a boost. And, I for one, am in need of excuses to get out and enjoy the hobby! I hope to see you out and about at many of these spring festivities!

Kathy Stevenson, Secretary

Photo Credit: Robyn Andersen



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Youth Rep – Maddox Grover

About CHB

What We Do

Our mandate is "Conservation through Education".

Shows: Every year CHB organizes at least two poultry shows and has more recently begun to host dairy goat shows. Poultry and livestock shows are an excellent public forum to showcase and promote the dazzling and diverse assortment of chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks, as well as several breeds of goats. These exhibits also provide opportunities for people interested in breeding to connect one-on-one with top breeders.

Information: We compile and distribute quarterly newsletters to inform and inspire members. We conduct interviews with successful breeders to facilitate the sharing of their valuable knowledge and the insights they have gained through experience. CHB offers social media resources and networking opportunities to anyone interested in learning more and connecting with others in the world of heritage livestock.

Support: CHB strives to encourage and support heritage breed advocates through educational seminars and hands-on workshops. Our members provide youth and family mentoring, and we partner with other organizations such as agricultural societies and 4-H to lend our support to their members and programs.

Promotion: We present displays of animals and printed materials at public venues to demonstrate the diversity of heritage breeds to both urban and rural people.



- * Heritage livestock and poultry are the perfect alternative for non-commercial farmers and families interested in self-sustainable alternatives
- * These animals allow producers to capitalize on unique and niche markets
- * Protecting genetic resources and survival traits is a crucial strategy for ensuring future food supplies
- * Heritage breeds are a living link to our agricultural history and culture
- * Traditional livestock breeds are rapidly disappearing from the rural North American landscape, but keeping a current census of numbers is difficult. Some are on the verge of extinction, and are in desperate need of saving.

Become a Member

- Quarterly Newsletters and access to the Members Only area of the website
- Discounts or free access to select CHB Events
- Advertising opportunities
- The satisfaction of contributing to a great organization with lots of opportunities to become involved!

[Register online today!](#) Canadian Heritage Breeds is a Registered Non-Profit Society.

Advertise With CHB!

Canadian Heritage Breeds welcomes advertisers! High visibility, home page advertising is now available on the CHB website. Right now, as a bonus, if your farm, business, or club purchases one year of ad space on the CHB website, the ad will also be included in 4 quarterly newsletters at no extra charge!

CHB Advertising Rates and Specs

WEBSITE DISPLAY AD

Ad area, max. 300 x250 pixels, hyperlinked to your website or social media page. May contain a combination of still images and text. Ad size shown below.

Standard Website Rate: Appears on "Our Supporters" page.

\$8.50 per month, or \$100 per year.
(minimum 3 months)

Home Page Rate:

Please see the bottom row of photos on Home (landing) page:

www.canadianheritagebreeds.ca

Your ad would replace one of the 3 photos in bottom row of pictures.

\$13.50 per month (minimum 3 months), or \$160 per year.

Full banner, spanning page bottom is also available at this time. Please inquire for pricing.

1 year of website advertising also includes 1 year of the same ad appearing in our newsletters for free. CHB

newsletters are distributed via email to all paid CHB members in good standing, four times per year.



CHB NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Newsletter Only ads:

Full page (8.5 x 11) - \$40 per issue.
business card, or up to ¼ page - \$20 per issue.

**Note: All advertisement requests are subject to CHB board approval, and must meet CHB specifications for content and design*

CHB Youth Representative

Congratulations to Maddox Grover who has been appointed to the CHB board as Youth Representative!



Maddox has been participating in CHB poultry shows and events for several years. He can be counted on to show up early and pitch in to help out wherever needed. He is well acquainted with poultry exhibition and has competed in both junior and open shows, as well as Junior Showmanship. Maddox sent in an impressive application letter for this position. He has some great ideas of ways for CHB to grow the junior program and encourage youth to learn more about their birds and what it takes to show them successfully.

Maddox currently raises Registered Clydesdales and several breeds of poultry.

We are pleased to welcome Maddox to the CHB team and look forward to his contributions!



The Exhibitor

**Canada's publication
devoted to the
Enthusiasts of Purebred
Poultry, Waterfowl,
Pigeons, and other
Avian Species**

For information please contact
Carolyn Ridler maplestone@xplornet.com or
Mark Camilleri mcamilleri1@gmail.com

Office is open from 9:00am until 8:00pm

**The Exhibitor, 111096 11th line, East Garafraxa, Ontario L9W 7A4
519-928-5220**



The poster features a central purple circle with the text "Spring Fever" in large white letters with a blue shadow. Below it, "Market & More" is written in white. To the left of the text are two eggs, one brown and one white. The background is light blue with white clouds, a pink butterfly, and a white daisy. A blue banner at the bottom of the circle contains the date and time. Below the banner, the text "Chicks | Quality Birds | Hatching Eggs" is written in white. A black box contains the text "Don't miss this day of buying, selling and chatting chickens! Purebred poultry only please - no barnyard mixes". To the right, "ACTIVITIES" is written in yellow, followed by a list of activities. At the bottom, three photos show a duckling, a speckled hen, and a basket of chicks. A pink box contains the text "Vendors, reserve your space soon! Visit: www.canadianheritagebreeds.ca". The bottom left corner features the CHB logo with silhouettes of a rooster, cow, and rabbit. The bottom right corner contains the text "At Lacombe Ag Society - Barn 5".

Brought to you by the Poultry Breeders of Alberta

Spring Fever

Market & More

SATURDAY APRIL 30TH
FROM 10 AM - 4 PM

Chicks | Quality Birds | Hatching Eggs

Don't miss this day of buying, selling and chatting chickens!
Purebred poultry only please - no barnyard mixes

FREE ADMISSION

ACTIVITIES

- Poultry Judging Demos
- Show Tips

Vendors, reserve your space soon! Visit:
www.canadianheritagebreeds.ca

CHB At Lacombe Ag Society - Barn 5

Canadian Ag Day

Canadian Ag Day was February 22nd, and CHB member Emily of Evergreen Farm posted this touching tribute on her farm's Facebook page:



Today is Canadian Agriculture Day!

We are so blessed to be loving and living the farm life each and every single day. While it keeps us very busy, our hearts are full and we are grateful for each day. Evergreen Farm is proud to celebrate Canadian Agriculture Day today and every day!! ❤️

— in Fawcett, Alberta.



Edmonton's K-Days is back for 2022 and CHB is getting in on the action!

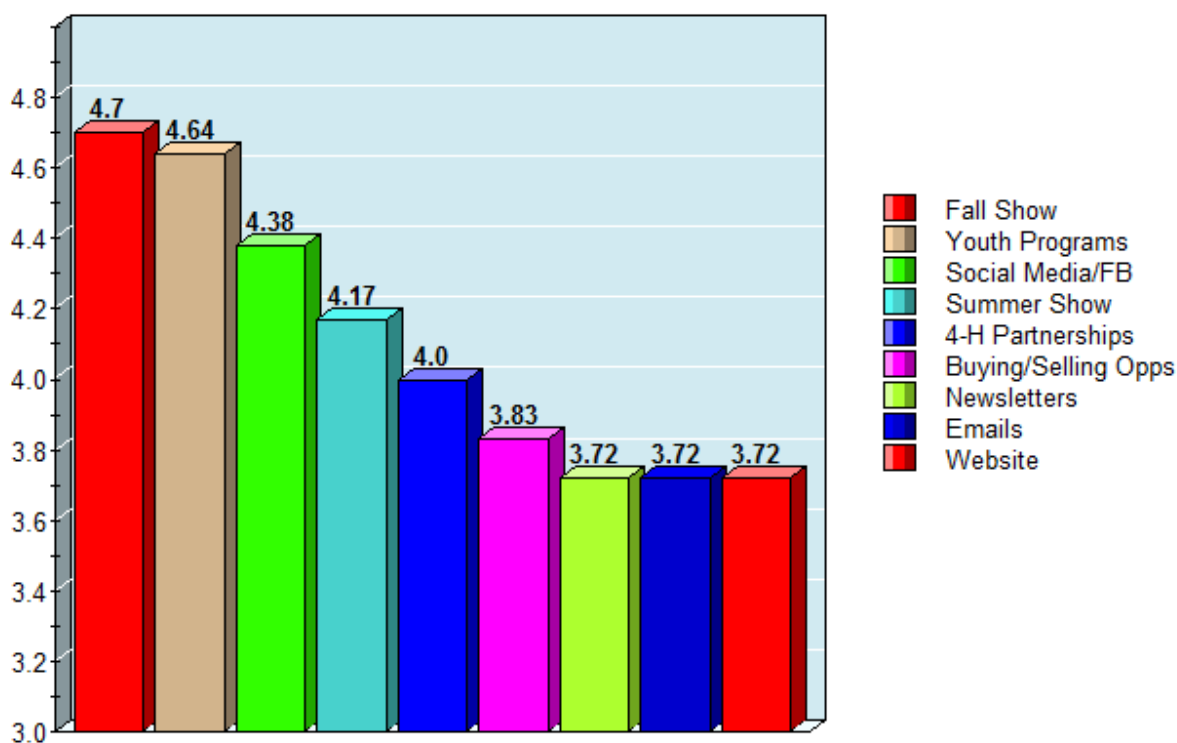
Mark your calendar for July 23-24th – it's CHB's Summer Poultry and Dairy Goat shows, taking place during K-Days at Edmonton Northlands. It's so much more than competing for ribbons....with thousands of people coming through the showbarn, K-Days is the ultimate public awareness opportunity! As breeders, this exhibition lets us showcase our favourite breeds and connect with the urban community. Plus, what could be more fun than combining livestock shows with all the attractions, music, rides and of course fair food that goes along with K-Days! More information will be available to share with you in the weeks ahead.

2021 Member Survey Results

In January, members were invited to complete a short survey to share thoughts and ideas, and most importantly, to help guide the organization forward. It had been a few years since we last polled our members, and the feedback we collected this time revealed some changing priorities and constructive new ideas!

This first graph shows how members rated CHB's current activities on a priority scale from 1 – 10. The Fall Show and Youth Programs rated highest, followed by social media activity, the Summer Show and building partnerships with 4-H. Offering buying and selling opportunities was also considered important. Providing newsletters, email communications and a public website were all considered the least important areas for the club to devote time and resources.

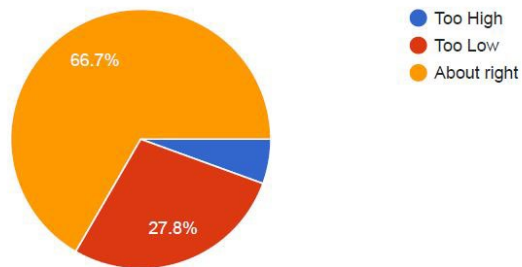
CHB Member Priorities



The Annual Fall Poultry Show is CHB's primary event, so the survey attempted to drill down a bit deeper to find out how members feel about this show specifically. 100% of participants expressed a very high, or high level of satisfaction with the Olds facility and with the event in general. 100% of participants felt that it was important for CHB poultry shows to be sanctioned with the APA.

Do you feel the membership fee of \$20 per year for a family is: (Answer required)

18 responses

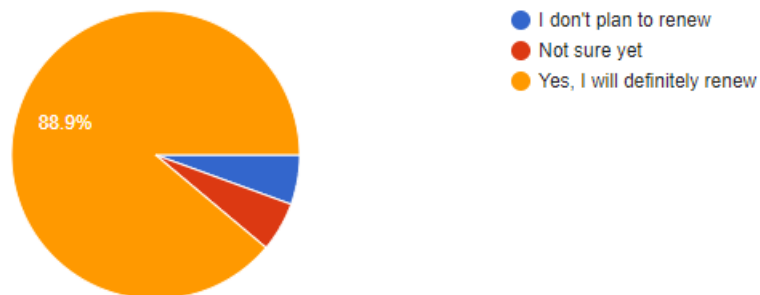


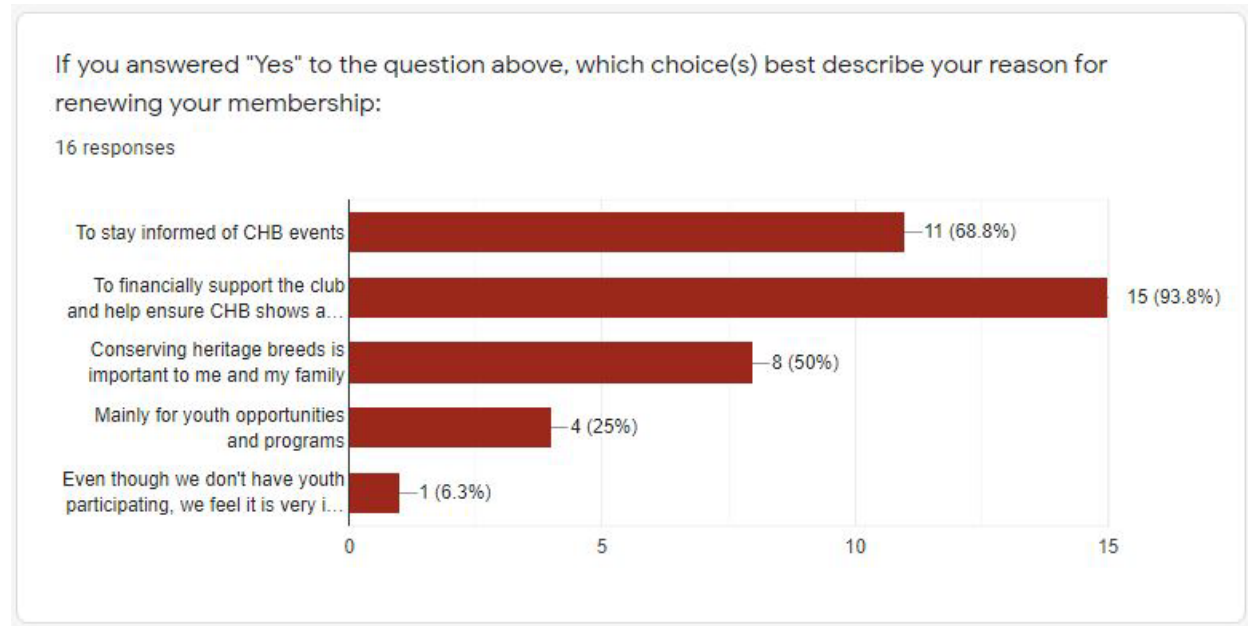
At \$20 per year, all but one respondent felt that current CHB membership fees are either set at an appropriate level or are too low. When asked if holding a current membership should entitle people to special privileges, the respondents were equally divided. Some commented that offering extra incentives for paid members adds value and might encourage more people to join the organization.

Renewal of membership:

How likely are you to renew your membership for 2022? (Answer required)

18 responses





The BOD would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's survey. It is clear you took time to consider the questions and provide valued, useful responses. The board has reviewed the results in detail, and we are already moving forward on some new initiatives as a result! The first is the Spring Fever Market and More, which is intended to be a grass routes introduction to poultry breeding and exhibition. We hope to help people of all ages get a good start in the hobby with birds from well-bred flocks, while also offering them guidance, support and encouragement.

Stay tuned for more exciting announcements in the months ahead!



Flock Record Keeping: From Egg to Adult

Article written for CFI (Chantecler Fanciers International)
By Kathy Stevenson

Poultry breeders use different methods to track which chick comes from which breeding pen. I thought I'd share the system that I've developed over the years and has worked well for me. There are a few different reasons why it's important to maintain flock records, and part of that process should include a way for you to trace the general lineage of each chick you hatch. Like many poultry breeders, I regularly use more than one female per male in my breeding pens, so most often I'm not specifically capturing the rooster/hen pair that produced the chick. But for my purposes, it's enough to know which pen the offspring is from. If I end up keeping that chick until maturity and decide to use it as a breeder bird, I will have the information I need to match it up with the most appropriate mate(s). This is

important for maintaining flocks with healthy genetic diversity, and to help me make good line breeding decisions.



White Chantecler Breeding Pen



Toe Punching a "CHO" chick

My tracking method revolves around what's called "toe punching" to permanently mark each newly hatched chick. Toe punching is a bit of a misnomer, as the puncture is made in the web between the toes. The hole punch tool is like a nail clipper. There is minimal bleeding and it heals fast, leaving a permanent marking. It is important to make a clean hole with no skin flap left attached, as it could then heal over.

The placement of the hole is what identifies the chick. There are many different combinations of hole placements that can be used, depending on the number of mating pens you have. This year I set up 3 separate Chantecler mating pens, so 2022 Chantecler chicks will have one of 3 different hole punch identifications.

Here is an example. One of my Chantecler breeding pens is labelled with the abbreviation CHO. As I gather eggs for incubating, I will use a pencil to write CHO on each egg from that pen, and the resulting chicks will get a hole punched in the web to the outside (to the right) of the middle toe. Chicks from the CHI pen will be marked on the inside web (left) of the middle toe. Chicks from the CHOI pen get double holes – both on the inside and outside webs. I use the same method for all of my breeds. My Leghorn eggs will be marked with LO, LI or LOI and the resulting chicks are toe punched to match. Because of my space limitations, I can usually set up only 3 mating pens for each of my breeds. This means there are enough toe punch combinations available on just one foot. All the chicks I raise this year will be marked on their right foot, and I will switch to the left next year. It's one more level of identification and it's come in handy

at times. Sometimes leg bands break or fall off, so it can be useful to look at an adult's foot and be able to tell if it was hatched in the current year or the previous year.

So really, the process begins when I set up my breeding pens for the season. I attach a card on each coop pen with some basic info about the birds that make up that breeding group. My system is loosely based on matrilineage (the dam's genealogy is the main indicator of how the breeding pen is set up and labelled).

That same information is also on a chart in my incubation and hatching room. On day 18, when I move the batch of eggs from the incubator to the hatcher unit, the eggs are arranged in separate sections inside the hatcher. This way there is no risk of the chicks getting mixed together as they hatch.

I give the chicks their web piercing immediately after they hatch, just as I'm placing them in the brooder, and that mark will stay with the bird for the rest of its life.

In addition to toe punching, I also use a different colour of leg band each year so I can tell a bird's age at a glance and from a distance. The few chicks that I grow out and decide to keep back for show or breeding will eventually be given a permanent leg band with their own unique number. Sometimes I don't assign their numbered band until after I see how they perform in the breeding pens. It's easier for me to tell how well they are performing when they are in small groups of 2, 3 or sometimes 4 birds per pen during breeding season. If a hen hasn't been a good layer or goes broody early, or if the cockerel has not demonstrated good fertility, I won't be keeping them around any longer, so I don't bother to assign them a number.

After breeding season is over I'll file my toe punch charts and incubation and hatching sheets into a binder to form part of my permanent flock records for that year. It's definitely not a high-tech system, but for a small, backyard breeder like me, keeping it old school makes sense.

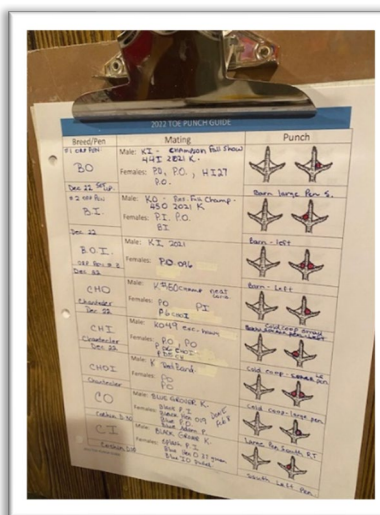
Again, this is just a simple system I developed to meet my own needs. I know of other breeders who use permanent, numbered wing bands. This has an added advantage of individually tracking each bird from chick to adult. Some people record their information into a software program or other electronic flock management system. The important thing is to find something you feel comfortable with and that gives you reliable information to develop or maintain a healthy, well-bred flock.



Info Cards are hung on each pen



































Eggs are marked according to the pen



Toe Punch Chart

Toe Punch Chart

				
				
				
				
				
				
				
				
		Unknown Parentage		



KEEP YOUR BIRDS SAFE

Follow these 5 tips to protect your flock from Avian Influenza (Bird Flu):



PREVENT CONTACT

with wild birds and other animals.



FREQUENTLY CLEAN

poultry coops, waterers, feeders, your clothing and your boots.



SPOT THE SIGNS

of Avian Influenza and report early to a veterinarian or the CFIA.



LIMIT EXPOSURE

to visitors.



SEPARATE BIRDS

Keep birds, their water and food away from wild birds.



More information on how to protect your birds can be found at:
inspection.canada.ca/flock-protection

P1040E-22
A104-250/2022E-PDF
978-0-660-41799-8



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canada



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www.alberta.ca/animal-health.aspx

March 4, 2022

From: Dr. Keith Lehman
Chief Provincial Veterinarian

Protecting Alberta Small Flock Poultry from Avian Influenza – Spring 2022

Avian Influenza (AI) has recently been detected in Canada.

It is important for backyard/small-flock keepers to be aware of this disease and take extra measures to protect your flocks during this coming spring migration.

What is it? Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is a highly contagious respiratory virus of birds. HPAI has been recently detected in migratory waterfowl, backyard flocks and commercial poultry flocks in eastern Canada, the eastern USA, and more recently in Vancouver. This disease is reportable because it can kill large numbers of birds in a short time. Currently there are no approved vaccines or treatments for HPAI in Canada. HPAI has the potential to infect humans, and it can result in restrictions of the sale and movement of Canadian poultry.

This Spring is a Season with Increased Avian Influenza Risk

- Wild migratory waterfowl are known to carry AI viruses.
- Influenza viruses often do not cause illness in waterfowl, however certain strains can cause severe illness and death in domestic poultry. **The Eurasian strain of AI that has been detected along the Eastern coast of Canada, eastern US, and in Vancouver; causing rapid death with limited signs of illness other than a reduction in activity**
- Massive movement of wild birds during migration increases the risk of AI transmission to poultry farms. **Birds from the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Pacific flyways can cross over the province of Alberta and spread disease to poultry in our province.**
- AI can be transmitted to domestic flocks through direct contact with wild birds **or their droppings**, or through contaminated water supplies.





What to Watch for:

- Sudden drop in flock egg production.
- Swelling of the head, neck and/or eyes.
- Coughing, gasping, sneezing, nasal discharge, bloody diarrhea.
- Trembling, lack of coordination, odd head position.
- Changes in food and water consumption.
- Sudden death and/or a large number of deaths.

Symptoms can vary, and can look like those of other respiratory diseases, so it's better to be cautious and report any birds that might be sick.

If you suspect HPAI:

- Call your flock veterinarian
- Call the Government of Alberta Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (1-800-524-0051), to discuss your situation and have your dead bird(s) submitted to the Non-Quota, Non-Commercial poultry disease surveillance program at no cost. For more information about this program, go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/non-quota-or-non-commercial-poultry-disease-investigations.aspx>
- Call your local (federal) Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office
- Initiate a self-quarantine (do not let any birds move on or off your premises; restrict visitors)



What puts YOUR small/backyard flock at higher risk of AI?

- Outdoor housing and/or free-ranging
- Your property is near a body of water (migratory waterfowl)
- Your flock has access to wildlife (especially ducks and geese)
- Your flock has multiple species of birds, especially waterfowl

How You Can Minimize Your Risk:

Biosecurity is Your Best Defense!

- Use dedicated footwear/boots while accessing your flock
- Limit visitors to your premises
- Ensure your poultry are confined to a predator-proofed run **with a roof or netting** to keep wild birds out
- Prevent contact with wildlife, and do not allow wildlife access to your poultry feeders/waterers
- Clean and disinfect regularly
- Dispose of dead birds properly, by burial, composting, or incineration
- Keep your PID information up to date so as to receive timely notices of disease outbreaks in your region

For more information, please go to <https://inspection.canada.ca/flock-protection>

or use this QR code for the most up to date **CFIA** information on how to protect your small flock from AI.

