

Avian flu: Cleanup and disposal

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) provides assistance and resources for avian flu clean up and disposal in Minnesota. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) has the lead role in dealing with livestock emergency response cases and carcass disposal. In cases “where disposal may adversely affect ground or surface water, the BAH shall seek the input of MPCA” (M.S. 35.815). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provide state and federal responses.

Key issues include disposal of carcasses, cleaning solutions, and related wastes, such as protective clothing and demolition debris. In the most recent epidemic, millions of poultry were destroyed, and composting was the primary means of carcass disposal. Feedlot rules help to ensure proper management of stockpiling and land application of the finished compost.

Visit the Board of Animal Health website or more information on the [avian flu](#) and [emergency carcass disposal](#).

Biosecurity

To prevent spreading of the virus, poultry workers must be aware of the importance of where they walk and drive, and take necessary steps to thoroughly clean and disinfect themselves and their vehicles. The virus transfers via feces and survives in manure for extended periods of time. Contamination of trucks, equipment, footwear, and clothing with bird feces can spread the virus.

Instructions for transport drivers and others entering a farm or production facility.

- Arrive at work wearing clean clothes and footwear that has not been worn around livestock.
- Carry and use cover-ups (clean, disinfected rubber boots or disposable boots) in a clean container in the truck cab.
- Stay as close to the truck as possible.
- Stay on your side of the line of separation between you or your equipment and the production facilities. Whenever possible, ask farm staff to open and close the bin lids.
- Remove cover-ups when back in the truck; contain and dispose of garbage in a separate bag or plastic container.
- Use hand sanitizer in the cab before touching surfaces.
- Do not cross the line of separation between production facilities and you or your equipment. This includes not entering the barn office or facilities. Leave invoices in a designated area, such as mailboxes attached to the bin leg or outside of the office.
- Drop bagged feed in a designated area, without crossing the line of separation.

More information is available from the [Minnesota Board of Animal Health](#) and the [USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#).