

Avian Influenza

- **Avian influenza** (AI) is a disease found among poultry. AI viruses can infect chickens, turkeys, pheasant, quail, ducks, geese, and guinea fowl as well as a wide variety of other birds, including migratory waterfowl.
- **AI is spread by** direct contact between healthy birds and infected birds, and through indirect contact with contaminated equipment and materials. Airborne transmission of the virus from farm to farm is highly unlikely under usual circumstances.
- **Symptoms** decreased food consumption, respiratory signs and decrease in egg production, and sudden death.
- **Poultry producers** should prevent their flock from coming into contact with wild or migratory birds. Keep poultry away from any source of water that could have been contaminated by wild birds. Do not loan to, or borrow equipment or vehicles from, other farms. Change footwear and clothing before working with your flock after visiting another farm or live-bird market or avoid visiting another bird farm if possible. Do not bring birds from slaughter channels, especially those from live-bird markets, back to the farm.
- Proper bird handling and hand washing is one of the most effective methods of preventing the spread of AI.
- **Report unusual sickness or die-offs** in domestic poultry to Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry at 850-410-0900 or the USDA Veterinary Services office at 1-866-536-7593.

For further information contact Martha Thomas Livestock/Natural Resource Agent