

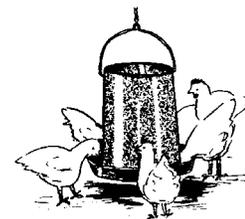


The University of Georgia

Cooperative Extension Service

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences / Athens, Georgia 30602-4356

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BACKYARD FLOCK TIP . . .

SMALL FLOCK OWNERS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE NATION'S POULTRY

The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts comprehensive, scientifically valid surveys of animal health-related practices in the different farm animal production sectors. The goal of these surveys is to build an information base that quantifies the percentages of producers who employ particular health-related practices. From this information, animal health officials, industry members and researchers can figure out ways to enhance the protection of farm animal health or identify needs for further research. The surveys also are intended to serve an educational purpose by revealing opportunities to share information that can help people to make their animals more secure from disease.

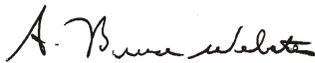
NAHMS has announced its intention to conduct a Poultry 2004 study to take an in-depth look at the nation's non-traditional poultry industries, which include backyard flocks. Questionnaires will be used to collect information on biosecurity practices, and on the health and movement of various poultry species. Participation in the study will be voluntary and confidential. No identifying information such as name and address will be recorded on questionnaires or in data sets. The questionnaire responses will be summarized on a regional and national basis.

Eighteen of the leading poultry states, including Georgia, have been selected for the NAHMS Poultry 2004 study. Within each state, small flock owners located within a 1-mile radius of selected commercial poultry operations will be canvassed for participation in the study. The people conducting the questionnaires will not enter bird areas or handle birds. Canvassers will also provide flock owners with information on effective biosecurity practices, avian influenza, exotic Newcastle disease, as well as contact numbers for various federal, state, and county animal health resources.

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State College, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.
The Cooperative Extension service officers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability
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It is hoped that the data derived from the Poultry 2004 study will provide insights about how to better defend U.S. poultry flocks, both large and small, from highly contagious, devastating diseases such as avian influenza (AI) and exotic Newcastle disease (END). Outbreaks of AI and END in recent years have caused serious harm to the poultry industry in several states, requiring farms to be quarantined and flocks to be depopulated in order to stop the spread of disease. In light of the potential effect that bioterrorism could have on U.S. poultry flocks, it is even more important now to have the kind of information that only the NAHMS study can provide. The Poultry 2004 study has been endorsed by the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association. If it should happen that you are approached to participate in this study, please consider it an opportunity to help make your flock, and your neighbor's flock, safer from deadly disease, and in the long run, to protect the security of our country's food supply.



A. Bruce Webster
Extension Poultry Scientist

Extension County Coordinator/Agent

“Your local County Extension Agent is a source of more information on this subject.”