

# Wild Birds, Rodents, and Insects



## Why is it Important to Manage Wild Birds, Rodents, and Insects?

Wild birds and insects have been documented to carry Avian Influenza virus. Rodents and other wild and domestic animals may spread virus directly or indirectly via contaminated fur, feet, or feathers. Biosecurity measures against wild birds, rodents, insects, and other animals fall into three categories: clean, exclude, and control. The Biosecurity Coordinator or designee should **develop, document, maintain, and monitor** these measures in the site's biosecurity plan.

## Clean

Keep the site clean to reduce attraction of wild birds, rodents, and insects

- Store, prepare, and handle feed to prevent contamination
- Clean feed spills immediately
- Remove trash regularly
- Remove standing water and establish drainage
- Dispose of waste eggs and dead birds
- Keep manure and litter moisture content low

## Exclude

Prevent wild birds, rodents, and insects from entering your facilities

- Seal or screen doors, windows, and vents, and close them when not in use
- Place netting under rafters and spikes in nesting areas
- Plug holes larger than ¼ inch and seal cracks
- Mow grass/brush around buildings
- Line building perimeters with gravel

## Control

Adhere to state and local regulations for controlling pests

- Wild birds: fence perimeter of open water with tight grid or use harassment programs
- Rodents: use rodenticides (poison baits) and traps or a contracted rodent control plan
- Insects: use chemical (insecticide) or biological control methods or a contracted insect control plan



*Photo source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, CFSPH, Iowa State University*



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