



Cooper Farms Biosecurity

Cooper Farms takes pride in being able to contribute to the education of youth by supplying quality poults for fair projects. Our ability to continue this practice relies on the cooperation of the exhibitors (You). Following these suggested guidelines will ensure that the health of your project as well as our own production flocks is not threatened by disease. *We ask that you please read through this handout, sign, and fill out the requested info. on the back and **return this copy to us within 7 days** (keep one copy for your reference).* Healthy, disease free turkeys is our common goal and **your** best bet for achieving GRAND CHAMPION Turkey!

A good Biosecurity program will eliminate contracting or spreading disease.

1. Provide and maintain clean, dry bedding.
 - Contributes to better air quality
 - Prevents foot pad infections
 - Reduces flies & mosquitoes, which may transmit disease
2. Maintain a sufficient supply of food & water.
 - Clean waters daily and feeders as needed – this will help to eliminate any potential viruses &/or bacteria that may have contaminated them.
 - Follow a proper feeding program – stronger, healthier turkeys can put up a better fight against viruses/bacteria.
 - Start poults on a starter feed mix (higher protein content)
 - As they age, follow with a grower feed mix (lower protein content)
 - Both should be available at local farm supply stores
3. Prevent direct contact with potential disease carriers (i.e. mice, squirrels, other rodents and wild birds).
 - Keep feed pans & waters confined to a pen – if left out in the open rodents &/or wild birds will find them and put your turkeys at risk of contracting a disease.
4. Wash with soap and water after handling animals and put on clean clothes; keep shoes and boots clean as well.
 - As a rule of thumb – When visiting other farms (esp. poultry & swine) change clothes and boots before revisiting your own turkeys.
 - You never know what viruses/bacteria could be undetected at your own farm or at someone else's; avoid cross contamination.
5. Provide a warm, comfortable, safe & stress-free environment.
 - Poults tend to pile under heat source when cold and will spread out when comfortable – comfortable, stress-free poults equal healthy poults.
 - Maintain good air quality through proper ventilation – this will help prevent respiratory problems for your turkeys.
 - Never allow yourself or anyone to mistreat or mishandle your turkeys. *Animal welfare should be one of the top priorities of your project.*
6. Never use open water sources to mist or cool turkeys, and NEVER as a drinking water source (i.e. unfiltered pond water).
 - Waterfowl are attracted to open water and can spread viruses through their feces; these viruses can live for long periods of time potentially contaminating your animals upon contact.

7. Do what you can to house your project in a location that is not in close proximity to other poultry or swine farms (i.e. Coopers or other producers), as certain viruses may be transported through the air.
- As some viruses can be carried by winds, animals raised too close to other farms could spread disease even without direct contact.
 - Please respect that our farms are a business. Our livelihood depends on healthy flocks; we take every necessary step to prevent diseases from coming into our farms or leaving our farms, we can only ask that you'll do the same.

We wish you the best of luck with your turkey project and hope that you will join us in the fight against disease transmission.

By signing below, you understand the risk of contracting and spreading disease to both Cooper Farms and your own animals and the importance of maintaining a proper Biosecurity program. Thank you for your cooperation!!

X

Exhibitor Signature & Date Signed

X

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date Signed

You're Name & Home Address: _____

PH: _____

Home Owner's Name & Address where poults will be housed/raised: _____
(If different than above) _____

PH: _____

Return completed forms in envelope provided or to:

Cooper Farms Inc.
Attn: Mallory Eberle
PO BOX 547
Oakwood, OH 45873