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Partnership for Safe Poultry in Kenya (PSPK) Program

Biosecurity Practices to Keep Yourself and Poultry Safe from Diseases

Winrock's PSPK program identified biosecurity practices to reduce mortalities and disease incidence on smallholder poultry farms. PSPK manuals, brochures, and demonstration sites help train smallholder farmers on safe poultry practices. Eleven biosecurity demonstration farms were established to serve as models to demonstrate good practices and viable chicken business to other farmers. Farmers practicing safe biosecurity measures have indicated that the mortalities on their farm have reduced from 20% to 3-5%.

Backyard biosecurity means doing everything you can to protect your backyard birds from diseases. Your birds can become sick or die from exposure to just a few bacteria, viruses, or parasites. In a single day, these germs can multiply and infect all your birds. By practicing backyard biosecurity, you can keep your birds healthy.

Here are some important tips:

- Restrict access to your chicken rearing enclosure/areas or housing unit and your birds.
- New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 30 days before putting them with the rest of your birds.
- Keep a pair of shoes (gum boots are best), and outerwear on hand that you wear only around your birds.
- Install a foot bath step pan with disinfectant and a hand washing station at the entrance to every coop.
- Inspect your flock for signs of parasites and take appropriate action immediately.
- Tools such as feed scoops, shovels, rakes, and brooms must be cleaned with soap and water, then disinfected before and after you use them.
- Dead birds should be quickly and properly disposed by burial, composting or incineration.