

Chicken diseases

Welcome to our guide on common diseases that affect chickens. Understanding these diseases is essential for maintaining the health and welfare of your flock. Here are the details on three significant diseases: Pullorum disease, avian influenza, and infectious coryza.

Pullorum disease

Pullorum disease, caused by the bacterium *Salmonella pullorum*, primarily affects young chicks but can also affect older birds.

SYMPTOMS

- Weakness and lethargy
- Diarrhea, often pasty white or yellowish in appearance
- Drooping wings
- Decreased feed intake
- Reduced growth rate

TRANSMISSION

- Vertical transmission (from infected hen to chick through the egg)
- Contaminated environment, feed, or water

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Test and cull infected birds
- Maintain strict biosecurity measures
- Clean and disinfect poultry housing and equipment

Avian influenza

Avian influenza (AI) is a highly contagious viral disease affecting domestic and wild birds. Some strains can cause severe illness and high mortality rates in poultry.

SYMPTOMS

- Respiratory signs like coughing, sneezing, and nasal discharge
- Swelling of the head, comb, and wattles
- Decreased egg production and quality

TRANSMISSION

- Direct contact with infected birds
- Contaminated equipment, clothing, and footwear
- Exposure to infected wild birds or their droppings

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Practice strict biosecurity measures
- Restrict movement of birds and personnel
- Report suspected cases to veterinary authorities

Infectious coryza

Infectious coryza is a bacterial respiratory disease caused by *Avibacterium paragallinarum*, primarily affecting chickens.

SYMPTOMS

- Swelling of the face and sinuses (swollen eyes)
- Foamy discharge from the eyes and nostrils
- Foul-smelling, bloody nasal discharge
- Reduced feed and water intake
- Drop in egg production and quality

TRANSMISSION

- Direct contact with infected birds or contaminated surfaces
- Aerosol transmission via respiratory secretions
- Carrier birds shedding the bacterium without showing symptoms

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Maintain good hygiene and sanitation practices
- Isolate and treat infected birds
- Practice strict quarantine measures for new birds

Remember, early detection and proper management are crucial in preventing disease outbreaks and minimizing their impact on your flock's health and productivity. Regular monitoring, good biosecurity, and prompt veterinary attention are key to maintaining a healthy chicken flock.

For more information or if you suspect any of these diseases in your flock, contact veterinarian Dr. Bawk Vader immediately.

Chicken diseases worksheet

1. What is the primary cause of Pullorum disease?
 - a. Avian influenza virus
 - c. *Salmonella pullorum* bacterium
 - d. Infectious Coryza bacterium
 - f. Newcastle disease virus
2. Coryza can cause which of the following symptoms in poultry?
 - d. Swelling of the face and sinuses
 - a. Foamy discharge from the eyes and nostrils
 - b. Reduced egg production
 - k. All of the above
3. What is a common method of transmission for avian influenza?
 - m. Vertical transmission from hen to chick
 - t. Contaminated water sources
 - i. Direct contact with infected birds
 - z. All of the above
4. Infectious coryza is primarily a disease affecting which part of the chicken?
 - r. Digestive system
 - n. Respiratory system
 - b. Reproductive system
 - w. Nervous system
5. What is a recommended method for preventing avian influenza outbreaks on a poultry farm?
 - f. Feeding antibiotics regularly
 - r. Keeping birds in overcrowded conditions
 - h. Following strict biosecurity measures
 - i. Allowing wild birds access to feed and water
6. Which symptom is *not* associated with infectious coryza?
 - o. Swollen eyes
 - h. Foul-smelling nasal discharge
 - c. Sudden death
 - j. Reduced feed intake
7. How is infectious coryza primarily transmitted?
 - e. Through direct contact with infected birds
 - h. Through contaminated equipment
 - p. Through decreased egg production
 - q. Through quarantine measures for new birds

Unscramble the letters of the multiple choice answers to determine which cards you need.

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