Bird Flu
What is it?
How to avoid it?

Bird flu, or avian influenza, is a disease caused by influenza type A virus that can infect poultry. Most strains are low pathogenic. Highly pathogenic strains (HPAI) are highly contagious in birds and often cause death in poultry.

Q: Is this a new bird disease?
A: There are many different subtypes and strains of flu viruses that circulate, and can evolve into new strains. Those designated as HPAI can be devastating to poultry.

Q: Is it the same as the human influenza?
A: This particular version of the virus does not infect humans. It is strictly a bird disease, not a threat to human health as stated by CDC. Eggs, chicken and turkey are safe to eat.
Q: How will I know if my birds get infected with this virus?
One of the earliest signs of the disease is increased death with up to 100% mortality in many cases. Birds will also show signs of sickness, twisted necks, blue and swollen faces and feet. The most consistent necropsy lesion was hemorrhages on the proventriculus (See pictures below).

Q: How can I protect my birds from this terrible disease?
BIOSECURITY
- Biosecurity includes all of the sanitary practices that are implemented to prevent the spread of diseases. These include:
  - Prevent any contact with wild birds
  - Prevent any contact with other animals, wild or domestic
  - Keep your birds sheltered in animal proof/ bird proof houses
  - Avoid visitors to your flock
  - Use disposable gloves and shoe covers before you come in contact with your birds or their environment
  - Wash your hands before and after contact with your birds or their environment
  - Use dedicated cloths to work with your birds, or use disposable coveralls
  - Avoid using surface water (ponds or lakes) as a source of drinking water for your birds
  - Acquire your feed from reliable sources and store it in a clean, dry, and cool place away from wild birds or wild animal’s access, particularly rodents

USDA provides excellent resources for bird biosecurity at: USDA’s Defend The Flock Program