

Are you a good neighbor?

DONNA CARVER
EXTENSION POULTRY VETERINARIAN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY



That depends...

...on your definition of
“Good Neighbor”.

Strongly correlated with...

...the size of your property.

...the presence of animals.

...smells emanating from your property.

...noise levels (especially while folks are trying to sleep).

...uneven distribution of needed resources among neighbors.



What about neighbors that grow birds?

Rule of thumb is less sharing...

- ...keep birds confined to your property
- ...keep noises down
- ...keep smells to a minimum
- ...share equipment cautiously
- ...NEVER share diseases!

What diseases can be shared?

- Any disease that is transmissible or contagious
- Bacteria
- Viruses
- Fungi
- Mycoplasmas
- Protozoa
- Parasites

Bacteria

- Have both DNA and RNA so are capable of reproducing outside of the host
- Can be fairly resistant to harsh environmental conditions
- Some can form spores which are very resistant to harsh environmental conditions
- Like moist temperate conditions
- Grow well on artificial media
- CAN BE TREATED WITH ANTIBIOTICS

Viruses

- Very small organisms
- Have either RNA or DNA, not both
- Cannot reproduce outside of host
- Like cool moist conditions
- Generally VERY species specific
- Do not grow well on artificial media
- CANNOT be treated with antibiotics

Fungi

- Parasitic plants that lack chlorophyll
- Most species either beneficial or harmless
- Disease caused by yeast-like and mold-like fungi
- Most common in stressed birds and birds over-treated with antibiotics
- Commonly associated with moldy shavings or moldy feed
- Can be treated with fungicides but antibiotics can make situation worse

Mycoplasmas

- Similar to bacteria but lack cell wall
- Does not readily grow on artificial media
- Is reportable (MG) in North Carolina
- CAN be treated with antibiotics

Protozoa

- Single-celled organism that can be a parasite
- Cause tissue damage as the “eggs” rupture out of the host cell
- Can cause severe disease and death
- Coccidia and Cryptosporidia are example
- No real treatment
- Prevention is key
- Once on your farm very difficult to eradicate

Parasites

- Organisms that live on other organisms (hosts) without providing any benefit in return.

- External parasites

- Internal parasites

External parasites

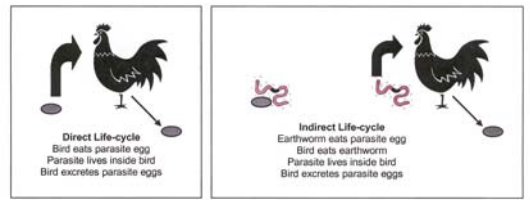
- Parasites that live on the skin, shanks, feathers
- Fleas, Bed bugs, lice, mites, flies, mosquitoes, ticks

- Primarily cause mechanical damage
- Cause long-term decline in health

- Tissue/feather damage is visible, nits and bugs can also be visible

Internal parasites

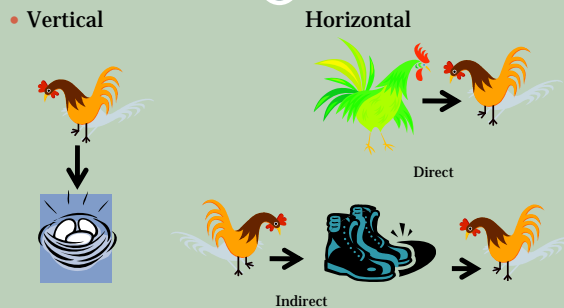
Live inside birds
Some can be seen with unaided eye
Two main types of life cycles



Reservoirs of disease

- Disease-causing organisms are generally found in live birds, in secretions of live birds, and freshly dead birds.
- Rodents and insects can be reservoirs.
- Most diseases are spread by humans.
- Avoid sick birds, secretions from birds, and manage mortality to prevent infecting your birds

Disease Transmission



Carrier Birds

- Birds that have recovered from a disease but can still shed the organism.
- Quarantine can sometimes help you identify these birds (Salmonella, Laryngotracheitis)

Diseases you cannot share but can prevent

- Nutritional
- Chemical toxins
- Other toxins
- Traumatic injury
- Excessive stress
- Predators

Biosecurity

- What is within your realm of control?
- Common denominators
 - Cannot survive in UV light
 - Do not tolerate drying
 - Do not tolerate high temperatures
- Let mother nature work for you
- If possible keep a closed flock
- Provide a healthy environment
- Medicate only when necessary

Biosecurity

- Comfortable birds are not stressed
- Provide clean dry housing
- Provide enough space for birds
- Provide roosts
- Sanitation is important
- Low levels of ammonia don't damage the respiratory tract

Biosecurity

- Whenever you visit premises that have birds be sure to change clothes and boots before returning to your birds.
- Keep wild birds away from your birds
- When indicated clean and disinfect feeders, waterers, and coops.
- Use common sense.

Disinfecting

- cide - Kill
- static – slows growth
- sanitizers – reduce numbers of bacteria

- Hot water
- Down time
- Sunlight drying

- Chemical disinfectants – READ THE LABEL

If your birds get sick...

NCDA Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System

<http://www.ncvdl.com/>
