

A Bit of History and a Current Reminder from our Extension Poultry Veterinarian

In decades past, turkeys were raised out of doors in the upper Midwest exposing them to large numbers of migrating waterfowl in the Mississippi flyway. Every year, some turkey flocks would become infected with avian influenza viruses. Turkey producers learned that if they kept the waterers and feeders for their flocks covered and away from wild birds that they could reduce the numbers of infections that occurred. They then found that if they kept their turkey flocks indoors rather than out of doors, they could eliminate nearly all of the infections that occurred. Based on these experiences, the University of California, Davis Cooperative Extension advises that food and water intended for domestic poultry be kept out of areas where wild birds might be and preferably, that domestic poultry be kept under cover to avoid their contact with free flying birds and their fecal matter.

- Dr. Carol Cardona