



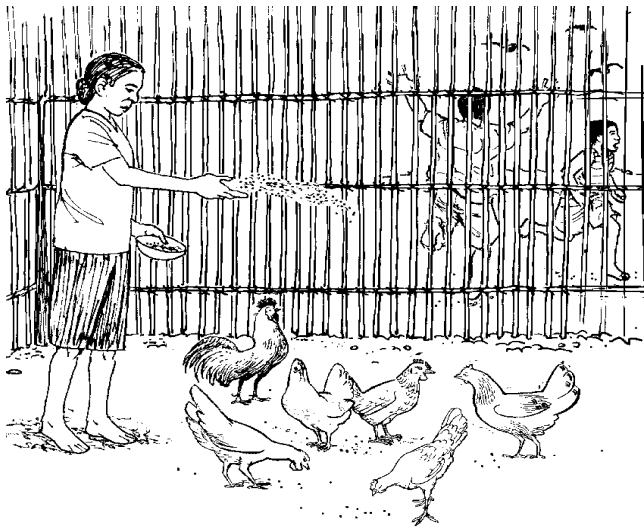
# BIRD FLU ALERT!

## Information for Poultry Handlers

### WHAT IS BIRD FLU (AVIAN INFLUENZA)?

Avian influenza is a viral disease that can make the chickens very ill!

Once an ill chicken is in contact with other chickens, the disease can spread very quickly either through contact or manure, bedding or feathers on equipment, vehicles or crates.



### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF ILL CHICKENS?

- Sudden death without any other signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Lower egg production
- Soft-shelled or deformed eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and legs
- Purple wattles, combs and legs
- Mucus
- Coughing, sneezing
- Clumsiness or ruffled feathers
- Diarrhea

Employees and visitors can carry the virus on their clothing or shoes as they go from one area to the next.

### HOW CAN POULTRY WORKERS PREVENT SPREADING BIRD FLU?

- Clean crates and equipment before and after movement of birds
- Keep all new birds in a separate location to watch for any signs of disease
- Wash your hands after handling birds or equipment



If you see any of the above signs or unusual death in your birds, call your veterinarian, HCPHES Veterinary Public Health (281) 999-3206 or the Texas Animal Health Commission (800) 550-8242.