

## **Restocking**

Refers to replacement of an entire flock (not just adding individuals to an existing flock), usually with young chicks.

- If adding to an already established flock, isolate new birds for at least 30 days as recommended in the “Isolation and Quarantine” factsheet to prevent spread of disease.

## **Fallow**

Refers to a period of rest between flocks to allow time for viruses and bacteria in the environment to die.

## **When to fallow:**

- Fallowing is necessary any time a flock is replaced to reduce the risk of disease passing between bird batches.
- It is especially important after a **disease outbreak\***
- Before restocking, a full clean-out should be performed and the housing facilities should remain empty for a period of time. A full clean-out involves emptying, cleaning, and disinfecting of the facilities.
- The time between bird batches is used to clean the coop and allow disease-causing agents to die off.

**\*For more information, please see *Cleaning and Disinfecting* handout**



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## **How to Fallow: General Procedure**

### **Step 1: “All Out”**

- Wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), **remove** all birds from facility (“depopulate”).

### **Step 2: Remove all Organic Material**

- Remove old feed, feces, litter, feathers, shells, etc. from facility and dispose.
- Also remove 3-4 inches of top soil.

### **Step 3: Clean and Disinfect**

- Clean and disinfect (C&D) facility thoroughly according to *Cleaning and Disinfecting* handout:
  - All interior surfaces
  - Feeding equipment
  - Waterers and water lines
  - Interior machinery (fans, heaters, etc.)

### **Step 4: Address any Pest Problems**

- This may require professional help.
- Pests include insects (e.g. lice, mites, ticks, fleas), rodents, other birds.

### **Step 5: Testing/Inspection**

- Have facility tested and inspected for cleanliness.

### **Step 6: Fallow Period**

- Leave facility empty for 2-3 weeks before restocking with new birds<sup>1</sup>.



## ***Restocking: Guidelines and Important Points***

### **Acquiring New Birds (“All In”)**

- Ensure new birds are purchased from reputable chicken breeders and tested free from disease.
- Look for hatcheries that are NPIP certified<sup>2</sup>.
  - Visit [poultryimprovement.org](http://poultryimprovement.org) for more information
- Purchase birds of the same age and from the same source<sup>3</sup>.

### **Stocking**

- Allocate 2.5 to 3.5 square feet per chicken inside a coop and an individual 4-5 feet per bird of outdoor, fenced-in space<sup>4</sup>.
- Some breeds may require more or less space depending on social characteristics.
- In the event of a **disease outbreak** that requires euthanasia of an entire flock, it is critical that you restock your flock carefully and on an appropriate schedule.
  - Diseases that would require depopulation of a flock include Newcastle Disease Virus, Avian Influenza, and some species of *Salmonella*.
  - When dealing with a disease outbreak, make sure to notify your local health authorities (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/>)
- Follow the ***How to Follow: General Procedure*** outlined previously before you purchase new birds.
- During restocking, identify potential sources of disease transmission and eliminate them. These may include:
  - Feral and pet cats
  - Waterfowl on property
  - Tall/unkempt grass where rodents can hide
  - Close proximity of the housing of other animal enclosures, including other backyard chicken flocks
- Use designated clothing and shoes when working with your flock.
- Wash your hands after working with your birds.

### ***References and Resources:***

1. Chapter 5: [http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/130718/10/10\\_chapter5.pdf](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/130718/10/10_chapter5.pdf)
2. [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/pdfs/TopTipsforKeepingYourBackyardBirdsHealthy.pdf](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/pdfs/TopTipsforKeepingYourBackyardBirdsHealthy.pdf)
3. [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/BioSpecies/BioPoultry.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/BioSpecies/BioPoultry.html)
4. <http://warren.cce.cornell.edu/4-h/backyard-chickens>

For more information, call the Sick Bird Hotline at (866) 922-2473 or visit:

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/Avian\\_Health\\_Program.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Avian_Health_Program.html)