



6 TIPS TO KEEP YOUR PIGS HEALTHY

Wild birds can spread diseases such as avian influenza and contaminate feed, water, and your farm environment. Here are simple steps to help keep your pigs and farm protected from disease.



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Secure Feed and Water Sources

- **Store feed in sealed, bird-proof containers** using bins with tight-fitting lids to prevent access by birds or rodents.
- **Keep a broom and dustpan near feeding areas** for quick cleanup to avoid attracting birds.
- **Ensure water systems are enclosed** and inaccessible to wild birds using covered troughs or nipple drinkers for pigs.



Remove Nesting and Perching Spots

- **Install stainless steel bird spikes**, netting, and equipment on rooflines to prevent birds from perching.
- **Repair gaps, holes or broken windows** and seal potential entry points (into the farm/housing)?
- **Cover vents and openings** with 1/4-inch galvanized wire mesh for ventilation openings.

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Handle Waste and Carcass Disposal

- **Secure waste areas and use bins with tight-fitting lids** for waste storage. Place bins away from pig housing and inspect weekly for damage.
- **Remove manure, litter, debris, and dead birds** promptly to prevent the attraction of pests and dispose of them following provincial regulations.
- **Ensure compost piles or disposal areas are covered and well-managed** to deter scavenging birds. Use tarpaulin covers for compost piles and secure them with weights.



Limit Vegetation and Standing Water

- **Keep grass short and remove bushes** or trees near pig facilities that could provide shelter for birds and maintain clear surroundings.
- **Drain puddles or unused water containers** to remove water sources for birds.
- **Use gravel to fill low-lying areas** prone to water pooling.

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Use Deterrent Systems

- **Use reflective tape, predator decoys**, or balloons with eyespots to scare away birds, or hang reflective tape near entrances.
- **Install sound devices** that emit predator calls or distress signals and **program devices to operate during peak bird activity times**.
- **Install motion-activated lasers** or ultrasonic bird repellents in high-risk areas for persistent bird problems.



Awareness and Regular Inspections

- **Promptly remove bird attractants**, and maintain a clean and bird-proof facility.
- **Conduct daily checks** around the facility for signs of bird activity, such as feathers, droppings, or nests.
- **Use a checklist** during daily inspections to ensure all areas are secure.

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