

# MYCOPLASMA GALLISEPTICUM

## MG BASICS:

*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, better known as MG, Mycoplasmosis, Chronic Respiratory Disease, or CRD, infects chickens, turkeys, partridges, ducks, pheasants, guineas, and peafowl. MG is relatively common in non-commercial poultry. It is caused by the bacteria *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, and it is spread easily. Given its long survival time (4 days) on clothing and hair, people are a common means of spread of MG. With a long incubation period of 5-10 days, the bacteria may be spread to healthy birds before clinical signs are visible in birds. MG infected parents can pass this disease along to their chicks in the eggs!



## CLINICAL SIGNS OF MG:

- "Bubbly" eye discharge, Almond-shaped eye, puffy eyelids, and swollen eyes
- Swollen sinuses and heads
- Depression

## IF YOU THINK YOUR BIRDS HAVE MG...

- Clinical signs are highly suspicious, but since other respiratory diseases may look very similar, laboratory confirmation is recommended.
- Request a technician to visit your farm to collect blood and swab tracheas, or submit a bird to the laboratory for necropsy.

## IF YOUR BIRDS ARE POSITIVE FOR MG...

- Depopulation may be recommended
- Antibiotics may be given, but these will not cure the disease. They will only make the birds feel better. Thus, throughout their lives, infected birds can continue to be a source of infection for new flock members, the next generation, and other birds.
- In addition, the eggs from hens treated with antibiotics cannot be consumed.

## TO PROTECT YOUR BIRDS AGAINST MG...

- Only buy birds from MG clean sources.
- Quarantine new birds for 30 days before you add them to your flock.
- Practice biosecurity!

