

# Protecting Our Animals

## USDA Launches Free Biosecurity 2006 Calendar

(NAPSA)—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has created an informative bilingual calendar that aims to help bird owners protect their birds from diseases like exotic Newcastle disease (END) and avian influenza (AI).

Individuals who raise birds may want a FREE copy of the calendar, called "2006 Backyard Biosecurity: Keeping Your Poultry Healthy." The information on the calendar can help ensure the prevention of infectious poultry and bird diseases. Whether they are interested in chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, or pet birds, all bird fanciers need to take necessary steps to prevent diseases such as END and AI (better known as bird flu) from devastating their flocks should an outbreak occur.

Biosecurity for the Birds is an important ongoing campaign created by USDA to inform people who raise their own poultry or have exotic birds about the signs associated with avian diseases such as AI and END. Considering the global impact and cost of these diseases, there is a great need to take all steps necessary to ensure the continuing economic stability and overall health of our nation's poultry industry. To eradicate END from California and other western states in 2002–2003, it reportedly cost the state and federal governments over \$170 million.

USDA's 2006 Backyard Biosecu-



**Easy-to-follow steps, such as keeping areas around domesticated birds clean, can help to prevent various diseases.**

urity calendar will help poultry owners by explaining six easy-to-follow steps to biosecurity. Owners will get information on warning signs for spotting illness, reporting sick birds and more.

USDA's 2006 Backyard Biosecurity calendar is available now. Bird owners may request a FREE copy for themselves or obtain one as a useful gift for a bird-owning friend or relative. Practicing biosecurity is an essential first step toward preventing disease from affecting poultry flocks. Using the new calendar can help!

To get additional information concerning avian diseases and to order a free calendar, log onto <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/bird> biosecurity or call (301) 734-7799.