

It's not just dust.

**DO YOU WORK ON A
POULTRY FARM?**

That bandana isn't really protecting you.



**Southwest
Center**

FOR AGRICULTURAL HEALTH

DO YOU HAVE TO COVER YOUR NOSE OR MOUTH WHEN YOU WORK?

Yes, because the air is filled with **dust, dander,** and **harmful bacteria** that can affect our lungs and make us sick.¹



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Gas

**Chickens not to scale*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Dust masks are not NIOSH* approved filtering facepiece respirators. They can be worn for comfort against non-toxic nuisance dust during activities like mowing, gardening, sweeping, and dusting. These masks are not respirators and do not offer protection against hazardous dusts, gases, or vapors like those produced in poultry houses.
- This hazardous dust not only makes it hard to breathe, but it can also make us sick and cause lung disease.
- Poultry house dust is a complex mixture of animal dander, feed particles, animal waste, and bacteria.
- Our research has found that poultry house dust contains extremely small particles (nanoparticles), known as bacterial extracellular vesicles, that are released by the bacteria.²

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY LUNGS?

- Wear an N95 or P100 disposable filtering facepiece respirator when working inside poultry facilities.
- Replace a respirator or filter when it is visibly dirty or damaged or when you experience difficulty breathing through it.
- Never wash or try to blow out respirators or filters.
- Inspect your respirator/mask regularly for worn-out straps, cracks, and dents, and store it in a clean, cool, dry place.
- Replace respirator cartridges when you can smell or taste chemicals or dusts while or after using the respirator, or according to the manufacturer recommendations. ²



HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LUNGS & BREATHE BETTER:

- A P100 cartridge in combination with a reusable respirator can provide the maximum filtration against dust and other particles. Though it offers the highest form of protection, a disposable N95 respirator offers considerable protection at a lower cost.
- An ammonia cartridge combined with an N95 or P100 particulate filter provides protection from ammonia and organic dust. ²



WHAT TYPES OF RESPIRATORS ARE THERE?

1. Disposable respirators are generally single-use, but repurposing may be appropriate in some situations. N95 filtering facepiece respirators are approved by NIOSH (see image below) and are the most common type. They are often used in agriculture settings.
2. Reusable respirators are cost-effective options that offer protection from hazardous gases, vapors, and particles like those found in poultry houses. These are paired with cartridges that offer different levels of protection. A P100 cartridge (see image below), helps protect you against harmful organic dust while Ammonia cartridges with a P100 filter protect you from Ammonia and organic dust.

WE'VE DONE THE RESEARCH.

Poultry Dust Exposure and Lung Inflammation
Principal Investigator: Vijay Boggaram, PhD

Use [this link](#) to learn more.



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