

Biosecurity: Practical measures to protect your flock and industry

DR. DANA SIMPSON DVM MRCVS



Introduction

- ✓ Graduated from Utrecht University 2005
- ✓ Large animal vet 2006-2017
- ✓ St Davids (Northern) Ireland 2017-present
- ✓ Currently studying for a masters degree in poultry veterinary
- ✓ Oversee commercial rearing and laying farms

Flu season 2022/2023

- ❖ In 2023 (to date), 32 wild birds have tested positive for H5N1
- ❖ No cases in commercial flocks in ROI/NI this year **so far**

However...

In GB (since October 2022)

- 160 cases in England
- 38 cases in Scotland
- 8 cases in Wales
- 1 case in Northern Ireland (captive birds , wildlife centre)

With cases reported several times a week in Scotland at present

And migratory birds due to return from the end of the month



- Confirmed HPAI Captive Birds**
- ★
- Wild Bird locations - July 2022 to July 2023**
- Blackbacked Gull
 - Blackheaded Gull
 - Buzzard
 - Common Tern
 - Greylag Goose
 - Guillemot
 - Herring Gull
 - Mute Swan
 - Northern Gannet
 - Peregrine Falcon
 - Pheasant
 - Raven
 - Red Kite
 - Roseate Tern
 - Whooper Swan

source: www.arcgis.com



Contributing factors for disease incursion observed in recent cases

- shared resources between farms/sites
 - no change or disinfection of footwear
 - unsuitable storage of bedding
 - poor vermin control
 - fabrication issues allowing water / vermin / wild bird entry
 - Pets in the packing area
 - Dead bird collection point close to the hen house
- **BIOSECURITY LAPSES**

There is very little evidence supporting airborne transmission.

What is Biosecurity?

A combination of measures, physical and management related

Aimed at reducing the risk of disease introduction to your flock

And reducing the spread of disease between sites

Should not be reaction to disease outbreak. Good hygiene and biosecurity practices should be always carried out.

This helps protect your flocks and livelihood as well as industry.

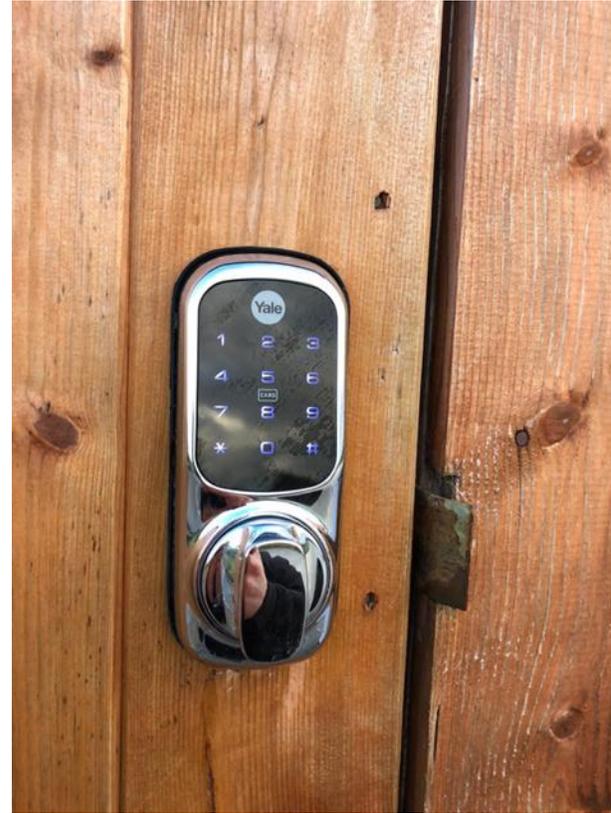
We will never eliminate the risk completely but we must try and reduce the risk as best we can



Biosecurity starts at the gate...



WHY??



Useful biosecurity measures

1. No visitors – unnecessary or accidental



Unnecessary high-risk visitors

Dead bin lorry!!
Delivery vehicles (post, goods)
Neighbours

Necessary high-risk visitors

Feed delivery vehicles
Egg collection vehicles
Repair services
Vermin control services
Vets
Auditors

Nothing and nobody comes in without disinfection!



Wheel spray should be in good working order

Fresh solution every 1-2 days

Sprayer size fit for purpose

Sufficient solution for all vehicles entering the site

All vehicles must get sprayed prior to entering the site

NO EXCEPTIONS



YES



NO



2. Keep the yard clean and clear





3. Covered foot baths with clean disinfectant solution at the entry to the house



REFRESH SOLUTION 2-3
TIMES A WEEK (MINIMUM)



REFRESH SOLUTION IF
VISIBLY CONTAMINATED



PROVIDE SUFFICIENT
SOLUTION TO COVER
FOOTWEAR





When choosing a disinfectant, make sure that...

- it is licensed to use by DAFM
- it has proven efficacy against AI and Salmonella
- It is used at the right concentration
- The product retains efficacy under cold weather conditions



4. Change your footwear at least once between the outside and bird area.

Ideally twice!!

It's a small action with a massive impact

Separate footwear for each house

Allocated colours can be of help

Keep a pair of spare wellies / shoes for the egg collector / auditors / visitors

5. Wash, dry and sanitise your hands



And make sure all visitors do as well

Stay vigilant

continuously assess any risks associated with actions

think... think... think...

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Be aware of things like;

Shavings

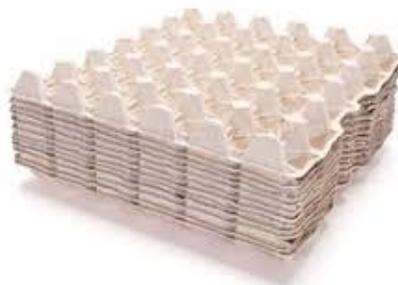
Egg trolleys and 'Scrap' egg trolleys

Buckets

Grit

Bales of keys trays

Toolboxes and machinery



Keep a sprayer in the egg store – spray the area the egg trolleys have moved across

Take responsibility for visitors - Keep extra boot covers , coveralls/boilersuits, face masks for visitors





6. Check your fabrication, vents and fans



Prevent water ingress - Especially into the bird area

7. Discourage wild birds from your farm and your range.

- Clear any feed spills up promptly
- No standing water on the range - If you can't drain it then prevent your birds having access to it.
- Use deterrents such as scarecrows, noise machines , bird scarers etc.
- Do not install a duck pond...





8. Vermin control

- Clean up feed spills promptly
- Seal up any gaps, holes and cracks
- Kick plates on lower door edges
- Cover the litter belt
- Store manure securely
- Keep the egg packing area clear of clutter and egg matter
- Check traps twice a week and replenish bait when necessary
- Autumn is the high-risk period



DOGS CAN ACT AS A VECTOR FOR
SALMONELLA



PETS CAN CARRY IN CONTAMINATED
MATTER (PAWS, FUR, MOUTH)

9. Keep pets out of the packing area and hen house(s)



10. keep the bird area as secure as you can

This includes the range on free range sites
Wildlife can carry, shed and spread the flu virus as well as other diseases such as Salmonella, Mycoplasma, Infectious Bronchitis etc.



11. Cleaning and Disinfection at intercrop



Biofilm formation properties of pathogenic bacteria including Salmonella and Enterococcus



Viral, bacterial and fungal environmental load



Feed bins , hoppers and tracks



Water lines



Don't be afraid to ask questions.



Don't be afraid to challenge anything you feel may be putting your business at risk



Book a free TASAH audit to help you prepare

We are all in this together

stay alert

disinfect

protect

If you
suspect
your flock
has bird flu

Notify DAFM via the Avian Check App

call the Avian Influenza Hotline at 01
607 2512 or

01 492 8026 (outside of normal office
hours)

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Thank you for your
attention