



ENFORCEMENT OF BIOSECURITY MEASURES IN POULTRY FARMS AND RELATED FACILITIES

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Before I begin my presentation, let me say that I have been involved in poultry production since 1958. Throughout these decades, I have never seen any effort or regulation by any authority to enforce biosecurity measures.

Why?

This presentation will uncover the most probable reasons behind this persistent failure.

Why Biosecurity must be enforced

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- The emergence of HPAI and other viral diseases, such as variant strains of IB, AI, and Adenovirus, profoundly affected commercial, rural, and backyard poultry.
- Inadequate Biosecurity has allowed diseases to spread and remain in circulation.
- Stamping-out and vaccination can reduce diseases, but neither replaces strong Biosecurity.
- Where compensation is possible or not, governments need to enforce prevention measures.
- Strict biosecurity measures reduce the cost of production by 10 – 30%.

Core proposition:

Biosecurity must move from voluntary practice to coordinated national enforcement.

What individual farms cannot solve alone

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- Minimum distances and zoning between farms and poultry facilities.
- Licensing standards for farm, hatchery and slaughterhouse construction.
- Veterinary surveillance, vaccination requirements and movement authorization.
- Control of rural/backyard poultry, free-range production and live-bird markets.
- Regulation of manure, slaughter facilities and offals, and wild-bird hunting.
- Compensation should be subject to compliance with strict biosecurity measures first, which make compliance and early reporting economically viable.

14 priority measures for government action

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- 1. Farm separation with minimum distances | 2. Construction standards
- 3. One type/age | 4. Exclusion of dogs, cats and other farm animals | 5. Vaccination
- 6. Monitoring & surveillance | 7. Manure handling | 8. Slaughterhouses' handling of offals
- 9. Live markets | 10. Live-bird movement | 11. Rural/backyard housing
- 12. Free-range housing | 13. Wild-bird hunting | 14. Fair compensation

Suggested minimum distances between farms

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	From any other farm *
Grand parents	25 Kms
Parents	10 Kms
Layers	7 Kms
Broilers	5 Kms
Any group of farms of the same type within a fenced area	1 Km

* Whether privately owned or not | * Only one age group in any farm

Designated wild bird hunting areas

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- Governments should designate wild-bird hunting areas.
- No poultry farm should be allowed to be built less than 25 Kms from the wild hunting areas.

From Waste to Value: safe conversion of slaughterhouse offals and farm mortalities into protein-rich feed

- Governments should require slaughterhouse offal and poultry mortalities to be processed in designated rendering plants under validated heat treatment at 120°C for 4 hours.
- The resulting safe powdered product, a protein-rich meal, should be authorized for incorporation into poultry and fish feed, subject to regulatory approval and appropriate safety standards.

International & industry lessons

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- FAO: holistic Biosecurity, risk analysis, capacity-building, information exchange, and cooperation.
- OIE: animal-health standards, surveillance, veterinary services, and safe trade.
- Free-range, non-housed poultry should be prohibited.
- Viable enforced biosecurity measures:
 - 1) New Zealand: industry Biosecurity manual aligned with regulatory requirements.
 - 2) Australia: egg-industry Code using HACCP principles, monitoring critical Biosecurity points.

Lesson:

Effective biosecurity is a system of standards, responsibilities, monitoring, and verification.

Benefits of strictly enforced biosecurity measures

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- Reduction of the cost of producing chicks, eggs, and poultry meat.
- Offers safer poultry consumer products.
- Reduction of viral mutations and the need for new vaccines.
- Minimizes compensation adopted by certain countries for losses from contagious diseases.
- Most poultry breeding companies and a few privately owned poultry production farms are already implementing biosecurity measures, but are not protected from newly established commercial poultry farms close to them.

How to address existing poultry facilities that do not comply with recommended biosecurity measures?

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- Governments should require the consolidation of closely located poultry farms into a single properly managed facility, operating with one poultry type and one age group at a time.
- Governments should establish a **clear transition and compliance period** for existing non-compliant facilities, requiring them to meet the prescribed biosecurity standards within a defined timeframe.
- Governments need to enforce the closure of perishable/ **substandard**, non-secure poultry houses that cannot be upgraded to meet the required biosecurity standards.

Conclusion

The practical message

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**Biosecurity should be treated
as national animal-health and public-health infrastructure —
not merely as an optional farm-management practice.**

Governments should legislate and enforce core Biosecurity measures,
supported by veterinary surveillance,
vaccination where necessary, movement control,
training, stakeholder cooperation and fair compensation.

- How can the industry address the widespread prevalence of multi-age farming systems and inadequate separation distances between poultry farms?
- How can potential conflicts of interest involving veterinary authorities, private veterinarians, vaccine manufacturers, and pharmaceutical companies be managed when stronger biosecurity measures reduce reliance on vaccines and medications?



Thank you

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