

BVS Poultry Talk

Best Veterinary Solutions, Inc.

2015

www.bestvetsolutions.com



Willmar, MN

325 Lakeland Drive NE • P.O. Box 266
Willmar, MN 56201
320-235-8611 or 1-800-533-1899
Fax 320-235-8629

Ellsworth, IA

1716 Detroit
Ellsworth, IA 50075
888-378-4045
Fax 515-836-4464

Washington, IN

1854 Waller Drive
Washington, IN 47501
877-254-3410
Fax 812-254-2337

Mechanicsburg, PA

1 Brenneman Circle
Mechanicsburg PA 17050
844-561-4918

Dagsboro, DE

30124 Country Gardens Blvd.
Suite G2
Dagsboro, DE 19939
877-732-3894

ARE YOU RED OR GREEN ?

*Robert L. Owen, V.M.D., Ph.D., DACPV
Director of Technical Services*

According to the experts, the US poultry industry is about to embark on the biggest game of Russian roulette that we have ever seen. A smaller version played out this spring and we all saw how successful we were then. Fortunately, everyone has heeded the advice of experts and has spent the summer preparing for what may be coming. **NOT!!!!** As I have spent the summer talking to producer groups the two most common feedbacks I have gotten are “Hopefully it won’t happen to me because I can’t stop it” or “It doesn’t matter if it happens because the Government will pay me for my birds”. If that is your attitude – Shame on you!!! Experience has shown that if we change our mindset and start practicing the highest standard of biosecurity we can protect our farms and our animals. And since when did the poultry industry

start looking to the government for hand-outs. This industry was founded by entrepreneurs who rolled the dice and did not count on the government for any help. Have we become so complacent and lazy that we are unwilling to be responsible for our own fate.

So let’s play the newest game to come to animal agriculture – Are you red or green? The game is easy – everything outside the poultry house is red and everything inside the house is green. The objective of the game is to keep the inside of the house green. Rules of the game are as follows:

- Red is the dominant color and trumps Green. In other words if anything red touches anything green the green turns red.
- The only way to turn something green is to

disinfect it in the absence of organic material or cover it in the form of clean boots or coveralls.

- Insurance can be purchased in the form of clean well maintained foot pans placed at the proper locations.

Remember everything outside the poultry house is red and if green is touched by red it turns red.

The other thing we need to talk about is levels of redness in people entering the poultry house. The level of biosecurity depends on the amount of risk posed to green areas.

- Level 1 – This level is reserved for the grower and his/her family when they stay on the farm. At this level the hands and feet of the people are red but the rest of the person is green (in other words coveralls are not required)
- Level 2 – This is for all visitors to the farm and the grower if he/she ventures off the farm around other people and/or animals or if HPAI has been diagnosed in the area. For this level the entire outside of the person is red meaning coveralls or change of clothing is required before entering the poultry house.

- Level 3 – This is for someone who has potentially been exposed to infected animals. For this level the entire person is red and is breathing fire. No one at this level should be allowed to enter a green building.

Figure 1 is a drawing of the most common biosecurity procedure practiced in the US today. The red line has been drawn at the sill of the door. This type of program can certainly be made to work but remember that what is needed is a complete change in thinking about how we handle biosecurity because the threat is much more virulent than we have seen before and is expected to last for years in all kinds of weather. So as you are trying to stand on one foot in an icy doorway in the middle of winter and accidentally put your foot down in the red area then step into the green area what happens to the green area.....it turns red. And if HPAI has been diagnosed in the area and you are supposed to be putting coveralls on before you enter a green area how are you going to accomplish that. In order to have 100% compliance the procedure has to be easy and simple.

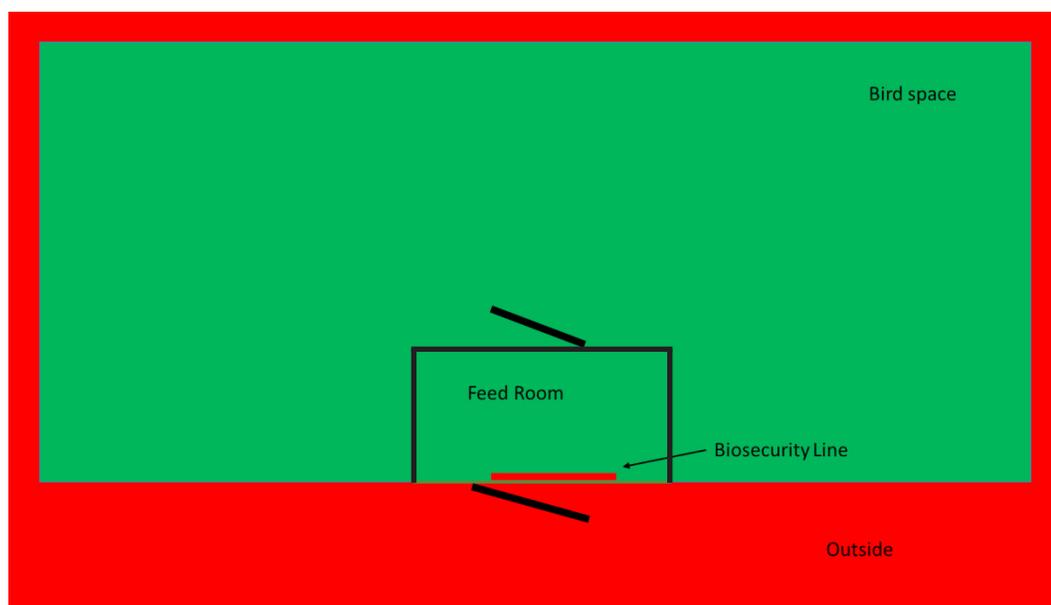


Figure 1: Typical US biosecurity system

Figure 2 is a drawing of what has come to be called the “Danish Entry System”. In this system a physical barrier is constructed in the mechanical room of the poultry house. This can be as simple or elaborate as you want to make it but it must be a barrier so that people entering the house are aware of the line of separation between the red outside the house and in the entry way and the green for the rest of the house. The barrier can be as simple as 6 concrete blocks on each side of the doorway and a board or bench at the front of the entry. That way people entering the house can sit on the bench, slip their red shoes off as they swing their feet over to the green side, and slip on a pair of green boots that are kept in the house. The alternative is to sit on the bench and slip on a pair of green shoe covers or plastic boots as they swing their feet into the green side. Green on green then is no problem. As added insurance to maintain “greenness”, foot pans can be located beside the bench and at the entry to the bird space and visitors encouraged to use them frequently. If coveralls are required they can be donned on the green side after shoes are changed.

The Danish entry system has obviously been used successfully in Denmark for many years and recently has been adopted by the US swine industry to successfully control a viral disease challenging pigs. The system works and is inexpensive and simple to maintain. Materials are less than \$50.00 a house and are cheap insurance if they prevent HPAI from affecting your poultry. Figure 3 (on back page) shows this entry system actually in practice. Using concrete blocks and a board the entry can be configured in any way to make it practical to enter into a red zone and change boots to maintain green.

Last but not least don't forget your hands. Remember even at Level 1 of our game your hands are red and notice in the picture that there is a box of gloves on the bench. In the HPAI outbreak Spring of 2015 some of the highest virus levels in infected houses were recorded on door knobs and other equipment frequently touched. Hand sanitizers or gloves are effective tools in trying to maintain a green poultry house.

One question that gets asked frequently is equipment shared between houses. Especially in the turkey industry tillers are commonly moved between houses. Moving equipment between houses is a red behavior and should be treated as

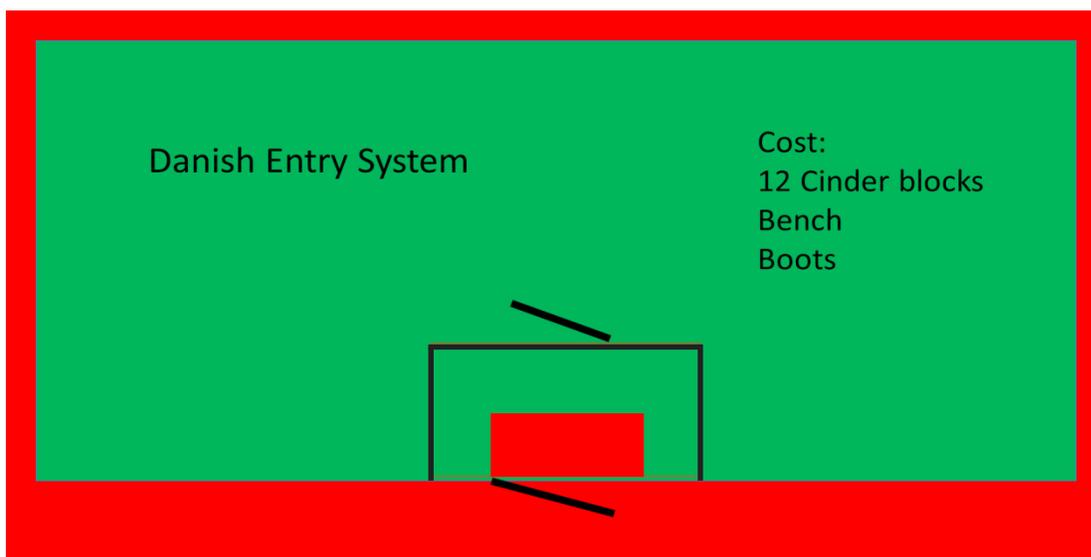


Figure 2: Danish Entry System

such. Ask yourself if it is possible to use our tools to change something from red to green. Small things such as boots and buckets can be effectively cleaned and disinfected between houses, but intricate and large equipment such as a tiller is probably too complicated to insure that it is returned to greenness.

As stated above successfully preventing the challenge that is coming is going to take a significant change in mindset. We have been very lax in our biosecurity procedures in the US because we, fortunately, have been spared from widespread severe disease challenges for many years. Those days

are over and the challenge we are facing may be with us for a long time so we might as well hunker down and prepare to meet the challenge. No excuses.

The government is not going to help us protect our farms and our animals. We have to do it ourselves and we should not be ignoring a tool as inexpensive and effective as the Danish entry system. As you go through your daily chores try to think of red and green behaviors. You will be surprised how many times you say to yourself that is a red behavior and I will lose. Pretty soon, though, things will start to fall into place and we will all achieve what we want – a green world.



Figure 3: Practical application of Danish Entry System (Picture courtesy of Michelle Kromm, 2015)