

Winter is Coming. Are You Ready?

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 BVS Staff Veterinarian*

While walking toward the entry room of a poultry house on a clear December day, I heard distant honking. Earlier in the day, I saw several flocks of Canadian and Snow Geese in grain fields, but I was still not prepared for the sight of thousands of birds flying overhead. The flock seemed to stretch out for miles (Figure 1). The distinct thought of “wow, I can’t believe I didn’t get pooped on,” went through my mind. This was swiftly followed by “oh no...they’re here.” In this single flight, the massive flock easily flew over hundreds of poultry premises, commercial and backyard flocks alike.

After this encounter, I was curious and looked up: “how frequently do snow geese defecate?” The answer - approximately 6 to 15 times per hour when foraging, and just a little less when flying long distances. Multiply this by thousands of birds...Yikes. If this isn’t enough to make you invest in a sturdy hat, it should definitely make you think about what you’re investing in your biosecurity plan.

I’d like to take the opportunity to highlight how migratory season is one of the largest risks to the poultry industry. To help mitigate this risk, I also have outlined the NPIP’s 14 Biosecurity Principles. These can be used to help defend your flock all year long.

What’s the big deal about wild geese and their feces? Generally, waterfowl are considered the natural reservoir and the perfect “melting pot” for influenza A viruses. They can carry over

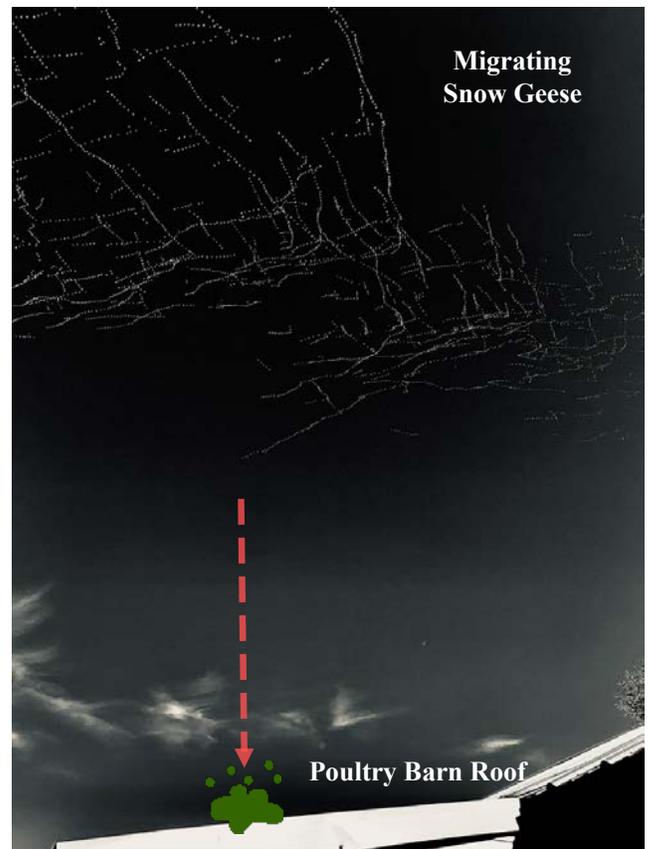


Figure 1. A large flock of Snow Geese migrating over a poultry producing premise. Graphic showing one of the potential outcomes. December 2021.

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100 different subtypes with few to no signs of disease. The subtypes are named using a combination of “H” (hemagglutinin), “N” (neuraminidase), and numbers; you may recognize these from past experiences. In waterfowl hosts, the viruses can “swap parts” (viral genes) and create new influenza combinations, potentially leading to Low Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (LPAI) or High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) viruses.

LPAI viruses commonly circulate throughout many avian populations. There are few to no indications of disease, that may include snicking, wheezing, conjunctivitis, mild diarrhea, egg production drops, and lethargy. LPAI H5 and H7 cases are reportable since these subtypes have high potential to become HPAI; LPAI premises must be closely monitored, if kept. LPAI cases are handled by animal health authorities in each state. HPAI, on the other hand, can vary in severity depending on many different factors, including the species infected. In poultry, HPAI can cause fast, high mortality with few other signs. If the birds live long enough you may see hemorrhages, edema, diarrhea, neurologic signs, and/or other signs of multiorgan failure. HPAI is a costly, industry crippling disease. HPAI cases are reportable globally, warrant federal involvement, and can even impact international trade. (***)Notify your flock health team IMMEDIATELY if you suspect LPAI or HPAI in your flock, or if you see wild birds near your farm exhibiting unusual behavior.)



Figure 2. A display at the MSP airport demonstrating the 4 major migratory routes covering North America. August 2021. **Left to right:** Pacific Flyway (Pink), Central Flyway (Blue), Mississippi Flyway (Yellow), & Atlantic Flyway (Green)*. The Atlantic Flyway covers the landmass where H5N1 was detected in December 2021.

Influenza A is shed in feces and respiratory secretions; for migratory birds, this can mean transcontinental (Figure 2) and, quite possibly, global distribution of the virus. The shed virus(es) can then infect hosts such as other avian species and some mammals, including humans. Each new host is a new opportunity to mutate into an LPAI or HPAI virus. Even if the virus has not infected a host, it can be carried around on shoes, clothing, equipment, vehicles, and in many other ways. The efficient transmission of this pathogen makes it capable of causing massive outbreaks.

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You may recall the devastating HPAI outbreaks when H5N2 and H5N8 tormented the US poultry industry in 2014-2015. Then came the HPAI H7N8 and H7N9 outbreaks in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Most recently in 2020, HPAI H7N3 was quickly controlled in the Carolinas, nonetheless it still caused a huge loss to our industry. Transmission was often blamed on wild birds carrying the viruses, however, spread occurred frequently between commercial premises, too. This should serve as a bleak reminder to assume influenza is always present, and combined surveillance efforts for poultry and wild birds are our best chance of getting ahead of the next outbreak.

In recent years, strains of HPAI H5N1 have been devastating poultry flocks across Asia, Europe, and Africa. A few days before my Snow Goose sighting, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency had confirmed HPAI H5N1 from a case of acute, high mortality in a non-commercial poultry flock in Newfoundland and Labrador. This H5N1 isolate was reported to be very similar to the Eurasian isolates. Around the same time, surveillance of wild birds in the surrounding area showed that they were also carrying H5N1, with 1 known mortality case. Again, we can only assume that the next HPAI outbreak is lurking around the corner. These detections and reports are examples of how global this disease can be. With a confirmed case in a neighboring country, it's not the time to be guessing if your biosecurity plan is "ok." Are you ready for HPAI?

You may be thinking "there are always birds flying over, and we haven't had a problem before...why do anything different?" True, migratory birds have established their paths over many centuries, this isn't new news. Yet, how has our industry been able to keep major catastrophes from happening year after year? Over time, biosecurity knowledge and practices have been developed and improved, and great efforts have been made to make "biosecurity" part of the poultry industry culture.

Even though we're making biosecurity advances, there are always new pressures forcing us to adapt. A major contributor of these pressures is that the poultry industry is getting pushed into more concentrated areas, due to the loss of agricultural lands and higher transportation costs, making the flocks and complexes larger and larger targets for disease outbreaks. Also, with the addition of more production types (i.e., Organic, ABE, etc.) and fewer available treatments, biosecurity is becoming a primary health program. With the annual reminders such as migrating birds, we do tend to think more about influenza, however, there are many other disease threats just waiting for an opportunity to break through your biosecurity shield.

"Biosecurity" is the process of preventing the introduction and spread of infectious diseases to a population. There may be certain times when you need a stronger shield to protect birds when diseases are trying to strike from every angle (i.e., migration seasons in the US), whereas some seasons may grant reprieve with "normal" disease challenges. However, at no point should the biosecurity shield be lowered; weaknesses will show, and disease challenges can destroy the flock. Know your enemies and protect your flocks against them. When there is active involvement by the biosecurity plan participants, it can be specifically tailored against these "enemies." The better the biosecurity plan effectively and

efficiently suits your specific needs and disease challenge risks, the easier it is to see the outcomes of your preventative investment.

When starting to write a biosecurity plan, ask yourself two questions – "what does biosecurity mean to me and my operation?", and "how will I communicate, document, and enforce a reasonable program to meet these expectations?". Clear descriptions of your plan and can be accompanied by pictures, maps, diagrams, charts, multiple languages if needed, and anything that will help users understand your biosecurity goals. One way to help compliance is to set different levels of biosecurity for "low" or normal risk, moderate risk, or high-risk scenarios. By having these levels defined ahead of specific disease challenges, the biosecurity program can pivot to meet your needs without missing a beat. There are some great resources available to help you double-check your existing biosecurity plan, and guide updates as needed. Reach out to your poultry health team/network, state animal diagnostic labs, university extension agents, and even national poultry organizations – they are here to help!

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) has created the *NPIP Program Standard E – Biosecurity Principles*, which includes 14 key focus points for biosecurity plans. The NPIP points are interpreted below, with several examples, to help you create a plan specific to your operation. Biosecurity is unbiased and should protect any species a plan is created for. Readers are



Figure 3. NPIP Logo.

strongly encouraged to reach out to their poultry production/health team if they have questions about developing or reviewing their biosecurity plan. The plan should cover the "who, what, when, where, and how" of your biosecurity program; you already know the "why" – protect the flock from disease.

The 14 NPIP Biosecurity Principles

(adapted from the Official Training on the NPIP Program Standards Biosecurity Principles, <http://www.poultryimprovement.org/documents/Biosecurity-Principles-and-Audit-Guidelines-2017-2020.pdf>):

- 1. Biosecurity Responsibility:** The "Biosecurity Boss," if you will. The plan should clearly state who oversees developing, enforcing, evaluating, and updating the biosecurity plan. This responsibility belongs to a designated individual that can communicate the plan efficiently and effectively.
- 2. Training:** Anybody that has contact with birds covered by the biosecurity plan, should be familiar with and understand the biosecurity plan. Training materials help give participants a physical reference of biosecurity expectations and details. Training should be done annually at a minimum, with immediate training upon hire, and for any major updates or changes. Keep records of who was trained and when.

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Figure 4. Line of Separation compared to the Perimeter Buffer Area

3. Line of Separation (LOS): This is the physical boundary between the flock and everything outside of the flock-containing, “clean” space. The LOS is often created by walls, fences, or enclosure perimeters. The LOS should be outlined on an aerial view of the premise, either by a diagram or photo (Figure 4). Everything contained by the LOS is considered “clean,” where everything outside of the LOS is considered “dirty.” However, if the flock is infected/diseased, the LOS contains the “dirty” area and you want to keep the pathogens from spreading off the farm. In short, the goal of the LOS should block flow of pathogens in and out of the flock. The LOS can be protected by locks or keycode pads. Clearly stated procedures for crossing the LOS, should be defined. Crossing the LOS can include changing into barn specific personal protective equipment (PPE), hand washing/hand sanitizers, canned disinfectant spray, boot cleaning/foot pans, a Danish entry system, or even shower-in/out facilities. This concept was well described in Dr. Owen’s “Are you Red or Green?” article (also found in this edition of Poultry Talk). Obvious signage should be placed at entries/exits for this biosecure area. Everyone entering the LOS and into the bird-containing area must adhere to the LOS biosecurity procedures.

4. Perimeter Buffer Area (PBA): The PBA is the immediate area around the barns, but outside of the LOS, separating poultry producing areas from non-poultry producing areas. The PBA typically includes the entire premise, including the outbuildings, equipment sheds, feed bins, and farm-specific driveways. Vegetative buffers are an excellent addition to the PBA and can help separate the premise from non-farm traffic and diseases carried by the wind. The PBA can be outlined on the same map as the LOS (Figure 4). As with the LOS, specific procedures should be outlined to cross the PBA boundary, such as spraying tires with disinfectant and a visitor sign-in log box. If there are regional disease challenges, are there extra levels of protection between the PBA and the surrounding area? Clear signage should be placed at entries/exits for this biosecure area. Everyone entering the premise must adhere to the PBA biosecurity procedures.

5. Personnel: Who gets to be on the premise, and what do they need to do to be there? This part of the plan should detail specific PPE requirements for each part of the premise and can cover caretakers, delivery drivers, service personnel, and visitors/non-farm guests. If personnel have had contact with other birds or poultry, downtime and other procedures should be clearly outlined. Everyone on the premise should be aware of your biosecurity procedures



Figure 5. Biosecurity sign example.

and should receive training as needed. A communication tree developed for personnel to notify others about biosecurity and/or disease concerns can be included here. Biosecurity is only as strong as the people practice it.



Figure 6. Wild Snow Geese in a freshly cut corn field in a poultry dense area.

6. Wild Birds, Rodents, & Insects: As mentioned at the beginning of this article, wild birds can cause major disease challenges in poultry flocks as they fly between premises (Figure 6). Preventing contact between off-premise birds (wild, pet, or other poultry) and birds protected within the PBA/LOS is paramount. This includes avoidance and awareness of feces/feathers left behind from unwelcomed guests. Rodents and insects are also major carriers/reservoirs for infectious agents. Complete elimination of pests should be the goal but is often impractical to reach. Appropriate measures should be taken to reduce pest populations to acceptable levels on poultry premises, based on the production system and known risks. Monitoring and control programs for rodents, insects, and other pests should be detailed, documented, and routinely reviewed for efficacy. Physical barriers, rodenticides, insecticides, traps, and patching holes or routine barn maintenance are all ways to keep vermin at bay. Methods of minimizing pest habitat (standing water, overgrown weeds/vegetation, etc.) near the poultry premises can also be included. Producers with outdoor-access flocks may need to consider seasonal and/or regional risks and adjust plans as necessary, to keep their flocks safe.

7. Equipment & Vehicles: Ideally, equipment and vehicles are farm specific, but if that’s not possible, other guidelines should cover equipment sharing and vehicles traveling between poultry houses. Cleaning, disinfection, and restrictions on shared equipment should be detailed. Vehicles including service trucks, feed trucks, chick trucks, live haul trucks, and really anything with wheels from of the farm

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should be considered here. Tire spray stations, hand-held or installed sprayers (Figure 7), and total car washes (including the undercarriage), all help keep hitch-hiking pathogens out of the premise. Ensure that the cleaning and disinfectant agents are targeting the pathogens you're trying to keep off your premise. Once the machines are cleaned, they should follow a farm traffic pattern. The acceptable routes can be written or drawn on map of the premise.

8. Mortality Disposal: It should go without saying – mortality must be collected and removed from the flock area daily. After collection, the dead should be disposed of in a way that prevents access by other poultry on the premise, wild birds, rodents, insects, and other predators/pests. On-site disposal is ideal – i.e., proper composting or incinerating. If the mortality disposal is off-site, the plan must describe how birds are stored until they are picked up – i.e.,



Figure 7. Installed tire sprayers.

locking freezers or dumpsters, how frequent are collections, and how cross-contamination is minimized from other “dead pickup” location. The mortality collection vehicle should follow all guidelines for cleanliness and traffic flow. In case of high mortality events or depopulation, plans must be made to handle a large volume of carcasses; work with your flock health team to be prepared for depopulation scenarios.

9. Manure & Litter Management: After the flock is gone, the decision must be made for the waste left in the barn. The goal, as always, is to prevent the spread of disease. Who is responsible for the manure and used litter? If the used litter can be reused, how will it be managed to control disease in the next flock? If the manure and litter is removed from the farm or premise, how will it be managed/stored, where will it be stored, how long will it be stored, it is protected from vermin, are other poultry at risk of disease when the manure is spread, what must be done with litter from sick flocks? It is important to be familiar with the regulations regarding manure handling in your local area, and don't forget to include any permits in your plan. A clear plan for your downtime/layout period and how to use that time to your biosecurity advantage (dry clean, full C&D, etc.) can be included here.

10. Replacement Poultry: Although “replacement poultry” in NPIP terms refers to birds intended for future breeding stock, this point applies to any premise expecting the introduction of new animals. Your next flock should be coming from health-monitored breeding flocks (ie/ NPIP), and delivered to the premise in clean transportation vehicles and equipment, by personnel who follow strict biosecurity practices.

11. Water Supply: Water used for drinking, evaporative cooling, wash down or other farm uses should be coming from a contained, clean, and/or treated source. There are many past Poultry Talk articles detailing how pathogens survive in water, and what can be done to help eliminate them. Knowing the primary and back-up water sources are critical since different sources carry varying levels of risk. Well and municipal water sources are preferable and should be routinely monitored for pathogens and treated when needed. If possible, avoid using surface water for cleaning and drinking purposes. If using surface water is unavoidable, you must consider water monitoring and treatments to eliminate a high pathogen burden.

12. Feed & Replacement Litter: Keeping any inputs for your flocks should be kept as clean as possible. Feed should be delivered, stored, and fed in a contained, clean system. If feed spills happen within the premise (Figure 8), not only is money wasted, but wild birds, rodents, and insects see a “free buffet” sign flashing next to the barns. Feed is expensive, and it is ONLY for the flock. Plans should outline proper feed management and what to do with spills. New bedding should be treated with the same care. Bedding material should be from a clean storage area with pest control (i.e. no feces, carcasses, or other wildlife remnants). Vermin will ALWAYS take advantage of an open opportunity; they see poorly stored bedding materials as a “vacancy” sign and will burrow in until the litter is spread in the houses. Other inputs, such as treatments, supplements, and enrichments, should be kept in biosecure storage until used.

13. Reporting Morbidity & Mortality: As you know, it's important to keep track of flock mortality and culls. Know the normal mortality limits and what needs to be done if mortality exceeds these limits. In addition to writing



Figure 8. Feed bin spill “buffet.”

the dead numbers, describing the sick and dying birds is critical, especially if you see any abnormalities. Who needs to know about increased mortality and what needs to be done to investigate the mortality event? Emergency contact information for your poultry health team should be bolded, underlined, highlighted in this section.

14. Auditing: Inspect what you Expect. Auditing your biosecurity program keeps users accountable and can show where improvements can be made in the future. For NPIP purposes, this is based on flock size, and should occur at least once every two years.

Your written comprehensive biosecurity plan may pass a “paper audit” with flying colors...but, is the plan *actually* being practiced? Is it a part of the culture surrounding the flock? When push comes to shove, and HPAI is knocking on the door, will the flock be protected? *Are you ready?

There you have it, the 14 Biosecurity Principles. Each of these aspects is important to remember when preparing a plan, but it may seem overwhelming to try and plan everything at once. The key is to just focus on one at a time and think about what will make a practical program for your operation to keep your flocks healthy. Benjamin Franklin said it best, “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail,” which seems like a great motto for biosecurity. Preparing biosecurity plans only costs time, and most of the physical biosecurity items cost pennies compared to losing a flock to diseases like HPAI.

By understanding, practicing, revising, and frequently communicating your biosecurity plan, you are ensuring your operation has invaluable insurance. If you need help finding ways to support your biosecurity program, the BVS team is here to help! As the winter sets in, the migratory birds will continue to fly overhead, or even take up seasonal residence nearby. We can only hope that disease surveillance will keep us apprised of the avian influenza situation before there is an industry incident. Until then, make sure your biosecurity program is what you want it to be, and keep your flock from being HPAI “patient 0” in 2022. ■

Resources:

- Owen, Robert L. *A Practical Guide for Managing Risk in Poultry Production*. 2nd ed., American Association of Avian Pathologists, Inc., 2017.
- Swayne, David E., et. al. “Influenza.” *Diseases of Poultry*, edited by David E. Swayne, 14th ed., Wiley Blackwell, Hoboken, NJ, 2020, pp. 210–256.
- USDA APHIS. “U.S. Poultry Industry Stakeholder Update: H5 HPAI in North America.” Avian Influenza Series. 7 Jan. 2022, Webinar.



Figure 9. The Georgia Poultry Lab Network has developed a poster highlighting the 14 Biosecurity Principles. Poster available for purchase at: <https://www.gapoultrylab.org/product/poster-bio-security-principles/>

- <https://www.hww.ca/en/wildlife/birds/greater-snow-goose.html>
- https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snow_Goose/overview
- <https://www.wattagnet.com/topics/171-avian-influenza>
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/defend-the-flock-program>
- <http://www.poultryimprovement.org/documents/ProgramStandardsA-E.pdf>
- <http://www.poultryimprovement.org/documents/Biosecurity-Principles-and-Audit-Guidelines-2017-2020.pdf>
- <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/biosecurity/>
- <https://extension.umn.edu/poultry/national-poultry-improvement-plan>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm>

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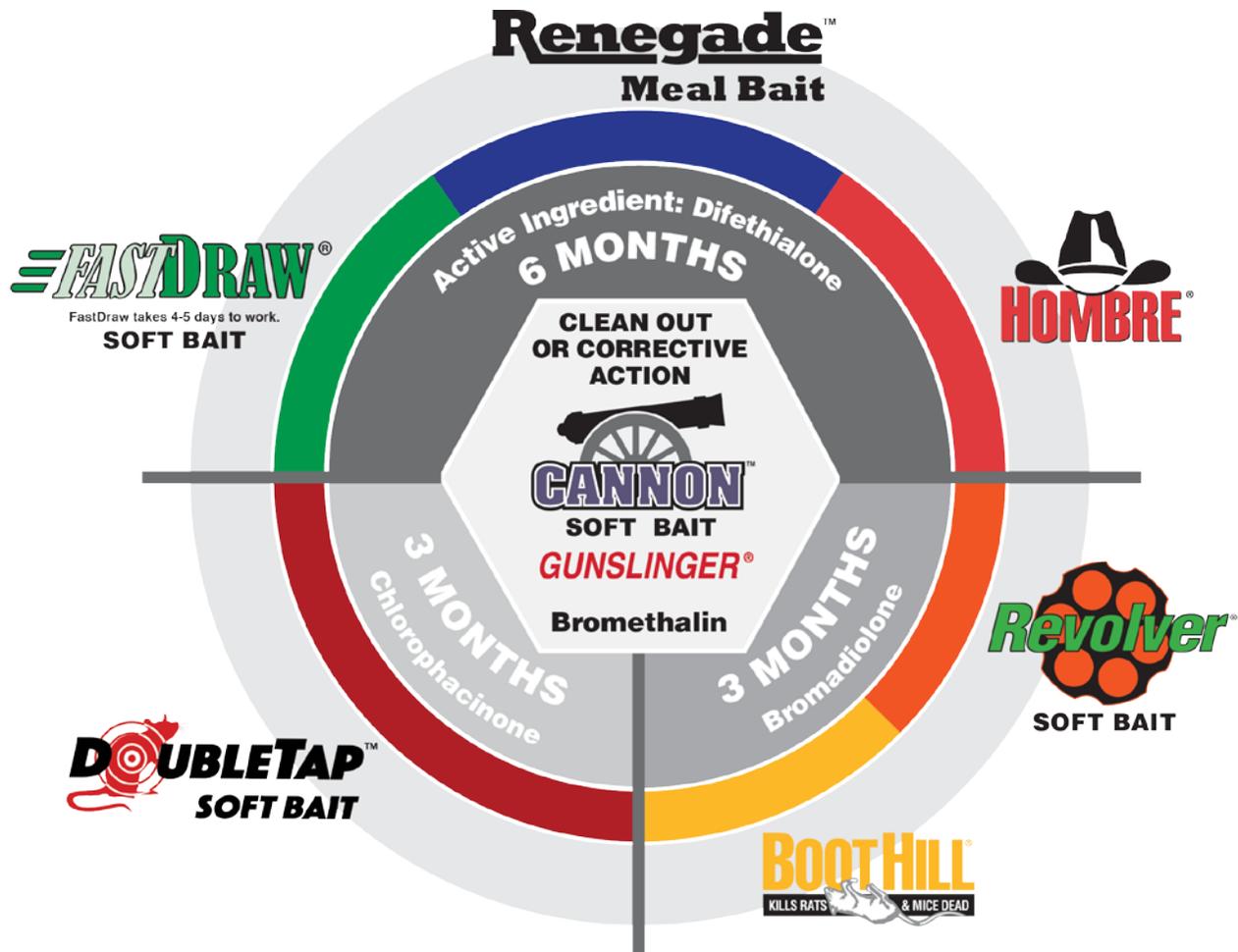
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*Doug Ross, Technical Service Manager
Control Solutions, Inc.*

House flies are a serious pest in live turkey production. Left uncontrolled, they are a threat to the farm's biosecurity program and can have a significant economic impact on operations.

House flies:

- Annoy birds and workers
- Carry and transmit disease organisms such as *Salmonella*, *Pasteurella*, *Campylobacter* and *E. coli*
- Create a public nuisance issue with farm "neighbors," potentially leading to litigation

Insecticide application is one practical and effective part of an integrated fly management program also including sanitation, fly exclusion and fly traps.

Tekko® 10 Insect Growth Regulator Concentrate (Active Ingredient: Novaluron 9.3%)
TEKKO 10 is an insect growth regulator (IGR) for house fly control in live turkey production. Novaluron, the active ingredient in Tekko 10, prevents the flies' immature stages (the larvae or maggots) found in litter from developing into adult flies, breaking their life cycle.

Use Sites

Tekko 10 can be applied to poultry litter, manure areas and other insect breeding sites in and around: poultry houses, refuse storage areas and as an outdoor perimeter treatment.

House Fly Control Field Trial

In the Fall of 2020, a field trial was conducted on a 16-house turkey farm to demonstrate Tekko 10 efficacy against house flies. Following any clean-out, litter



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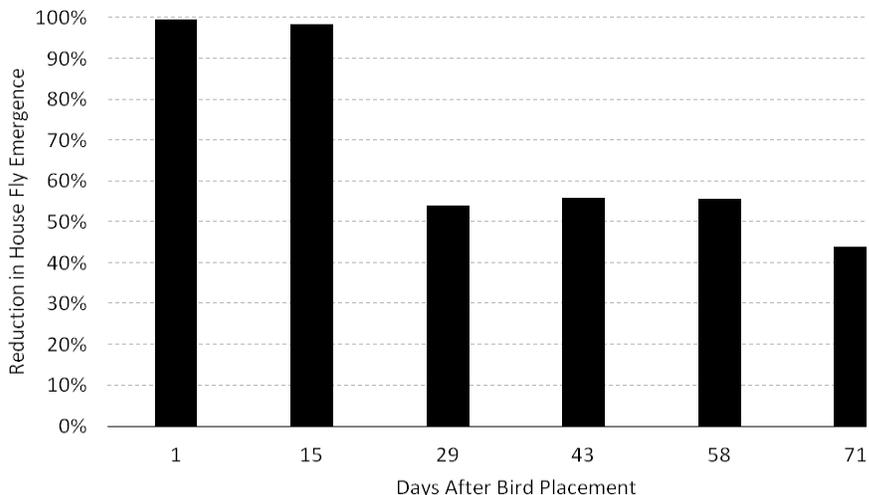
wind-rowing, and refreshing and spreading the litter across the floor area, insecticides were applied prior to bird placement. Eight houses received the integrator's standard insecticide treatments; the other eight received the standard treatments **PLUS Tekko 10** (applied at 3 fluid ounces/1,000 square feet in ≈4 gallons of water/1,000 square feet).

Litter samples were collected from the houses underneath 4 rows of feed pans/waterers at 1, 15, 29, 43, 58 and 71 days after bird placement and returned to the laboratory. Four of the houses in each group of eight (1, 3, 5 and 7 or 2, 4, 6 and 8) were alternately sampled on each collection date.

House fly bioassays were conducted using the field-collected litter samples. For each assay replicate (3 replicates/house/date) ≈150 grams of the litter were mixed with 150 grams of fly rearing media and placed into a plastic cup. **(NOTE: Making a 50:50 blend of litter + fly media cut the Tekko 10 label rate by 50% in the material used for bioassays!)**

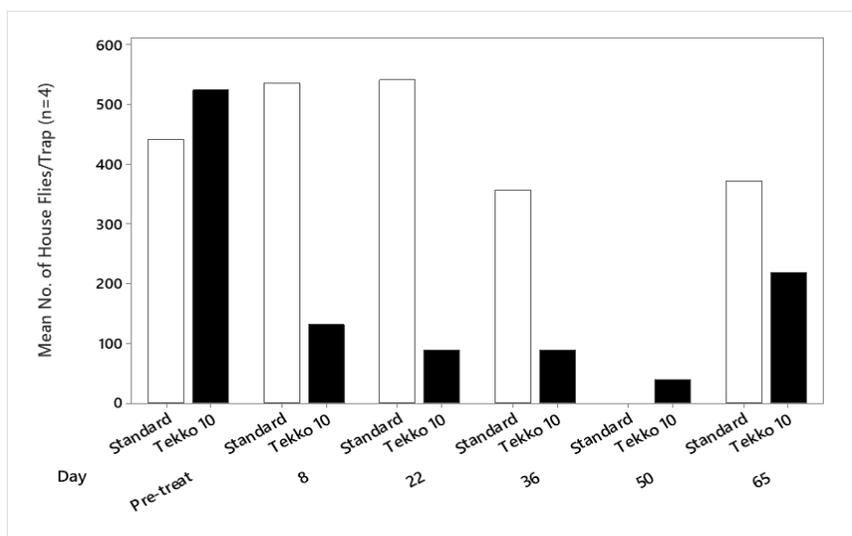
Approximately 50 <24-hour old house fly eggs¹ were added to the litter + fly media mix in each cup, and cups were placed into an environmental chamber (≈80°F; 50-85% RH; and a 16:8 D:N light cycle). Two days later the material in each cup was covered with ≈1 inch of rice hulls and placed back into the chamber to allow house flies to develop. The bioassays were scored 3-4 weeks later by counting emerged adult house flies.

These bioassays measured the residual activity of Tekko 10 in the litter collected from the houses. Through 15 days, Tekko 10 was virtually 100% effective in preventing house fly emergence. This dropped to 54% on day 29, but remained above or close to 50% through day 71. **Remember that the novaluron concentration in the bioassay (50:50 mix of litter and fly media) was only 50% of what was actually applied to litter in the houses.**



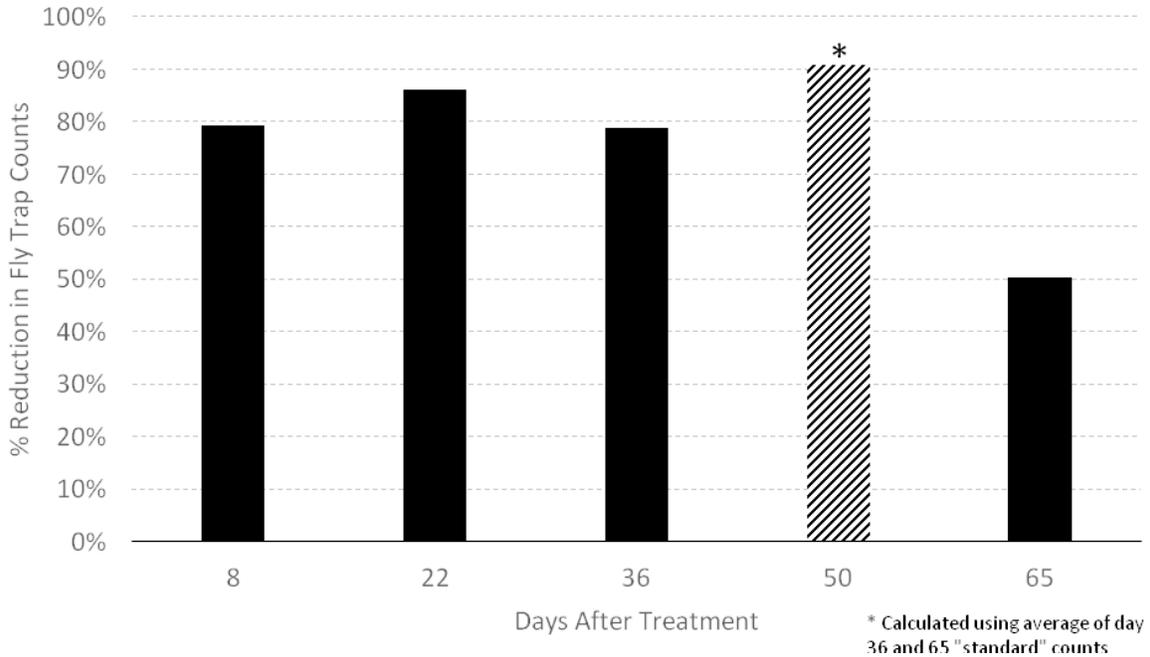
Sticky traps (fly sticks) were used to monitor adult flies in the turkey houses. One trap was placed on the front wall of each house and left there between litter sampling dates. (No trap data were available for the “standard” houses on day 50.) There was a large, significant reduction in adult house flies in houses treated with Tekko 10 eight days after bird placement, and trap catches in these houses continued to fall through day 50.

¹ Prior to the trial, flies from the study farm were collected and colonized and used as the source of eggs for the bioassays. So, the flies used in these tests had the same resistance characteristics as those actually on the farm. This provided more realistic results than if a naïve, insecticide susceptible laboratory strain of flies had been used.



Although trap counts rose after this, on day 65 Tekko 10 still provided a 50% reduction in fly counts.

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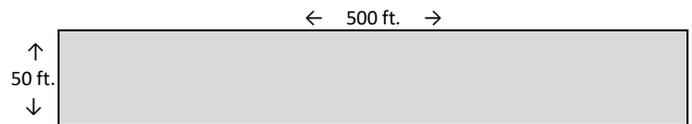


TEKKO 10 Application for House Fly Control in Turkey Houses

Use Tekko 10 at the rate of 3 fluid ounces/1,000 square feet of floor area to be treated. Mix the appropriate amount of Tekko 10 with 3 – 4 gallons water/1,000 square feet of floor area to be treated. Apply diluted Tekko 10 with suitable spray equipment. Applications should be made between flocks, after the litter in each house has been prepared for placement of

the next flock (i.e., following any clean-out, litter windrowing, and refreshing and spreading the litter across the floor area).

Tekko 10 Turkey House Treatment



Calculations (example)

- House dimensions:
 - Length = 500 ft.
 - Width = 50 ft.
 - **Floor Area** = 500 ft. X 50 ft. = **25,000 square feet**
- **Tekko 10 Needed:** 25,000 square feet X 3 fluid ounces/1,000 square feet = **75 fluid ounces**
- **Water Needed:** 25,000 square feet X 4 gallons/1,000 ft.² = **100 gallons** ■



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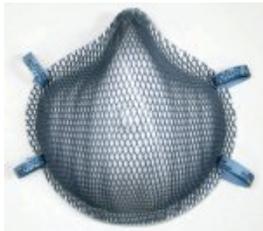
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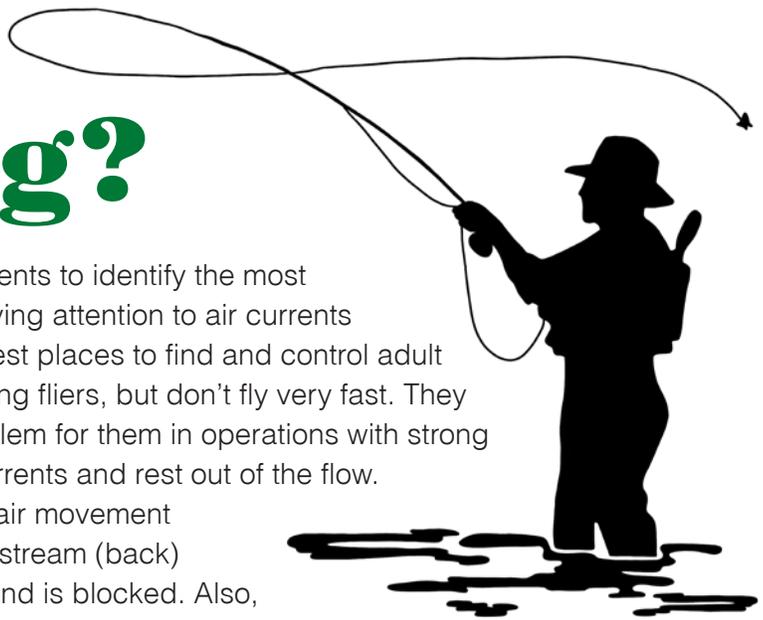
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Housefly Fishing?



Fly Fishing requires reading the water currents to identify the most productive spots to fish. In similar fashion, paying attention to air currents inside poultry/swine facilities can reveal the best places to find and control adult houseflies where they rest. Houseflies are strong fliers, but don't fly very fast. They max out at about 5-10 mph. This is a real problem for them in operations with strong ventilation fans, so they avoid these strong currents and rest out of the flow.

Flies often congregate in areas where the air movement is minimal such as in corners, or on the down-stream (back) sides of posts, fan housings, conduit where wind is blocked. Also, consider support wires, water tubes, and fixtures mounted to walls or ceilings where they can rest outside of the airflow. These are the areas that flies will seek out.

Now that we have identified where flies are most likely to rest, all that remains is selecting a treatment for these locations. Non-repellent residual insecticides or some baits are good options.

Did you know that houseflies taste the surfaces that they land on? They have chemoreceptors that taste food on various parts of their bodies, most notably on their feet. Tiny hair-like sensilla on the end leg segment (tarsi), act as taste buds. If the fly gets a signal from its feet that this surface tastes good, it will take a lick; otherwise it will move on.



Scientists refer to this as the "tarsal taste and proboscis extension reflex," and use it to test flavor preferences among flies. Yeah, fancy jargon, but bear with me.

If a fly tastes sugar with its foot, its brain instantly signals a reflex to extend its proboscis and eat. By the way, proboscis is a technical term that describes a fly's feeding structure, which when not feeding is retracted/tucked into its head.

Saliva along with digestive enzymes from a fly's crop (stomach) are regurgitated onto solid food (through the extended proboscis) to convert it into a digestible liquid (slurry). The puddle of slurry gets slurped up through the fly's labella, (a pair of tongue like structures at the end portion of the proboscis).

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So, think about the air flow in your facility to determine where flies are most likely to rest, and get the most out of your targeted treatments.

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Brian Mann is a Board Certified Entomologist and Strategic Account Manager for BASF.





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² E.F. Marshall. Cholecalciferol: A Unique Toxicant for Rodent Control. Proceedings of the Eleventh Vertebrate Pest Conference 1984, p. 95-98.

³ Prescott, C.V., El-Amin, Vusa, and Smith, R.H. "Calciferols and Bait Shyness in the Laboratory Rat". Proceedings of the Fifteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference 1992. Paper 64. Whisson, Desley, "Rodenticides for Control of Norway Rats, Roof Rats, and House Mice". University of California Cooperative Extension, Poultry Fact Sheet No. 23, 1996.

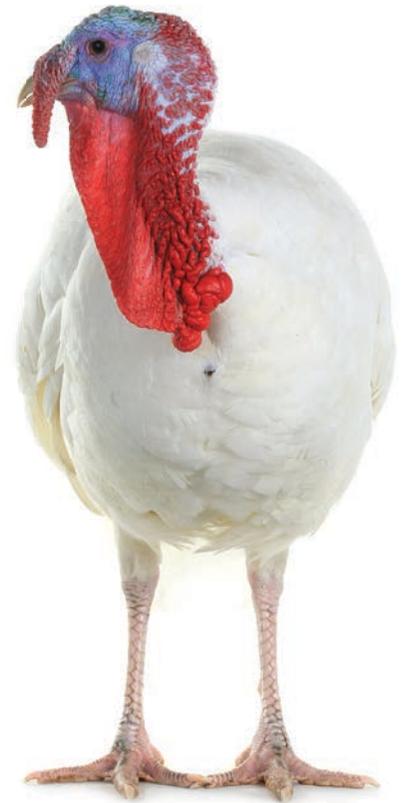
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ARE YOU RED OR GREEN?

*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.



Red or Green, *continued from page 32*

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.

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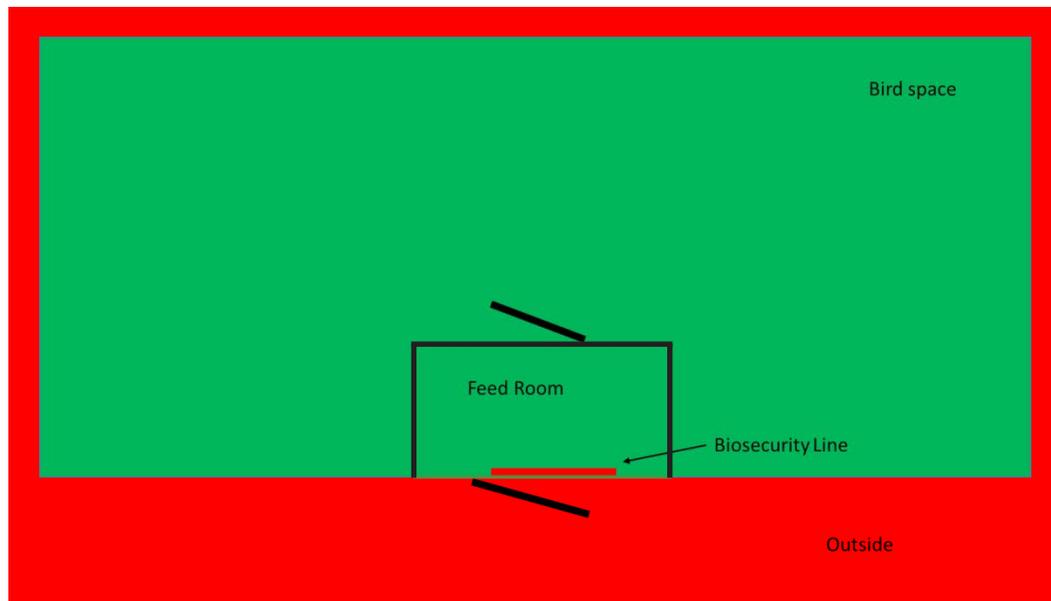


Figure 1: Typical US biosecurity system

Red or Green, *continued from page 33*

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 such. Ask yourself if it is possible to use our tools to change something

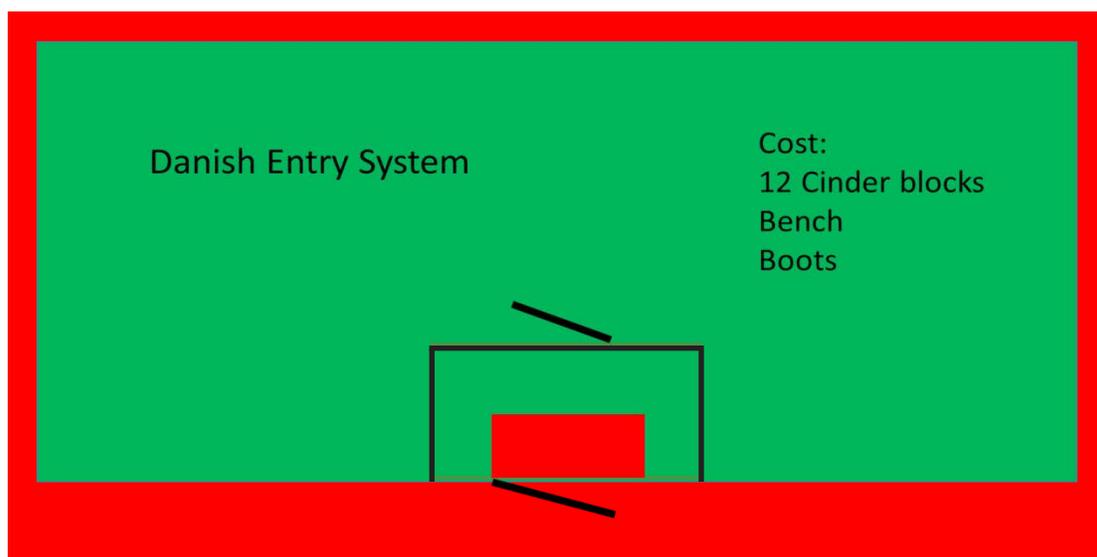


Figure 2: Danish Entry System

continued on page 35

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)

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BIOSUPREME® is produced under strict certified Food Safety Management System guidelines and manufacturing process. We use only mature and overmature *Yucca schidigera* plant stems obtained under an environmentally conscience and sustainable harvesting program.



Available in concentrated liquid, which can be included in drinking water systems.



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Nature's Answer



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GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE.

We pride ourselves on being prepared for any challenge life throws at us—it's just smart. But we couldn't do it on our own. CELMANAX™ delivers Refined Functional Carbohydrates™ (RFCs™) that help keep us resilient to challenges so we can respond quickly. Plus, we easily hit our target weight goals every time since you get the benefit of multiple feed additives in one high-quality formula. CELMANAX—it's a smart choice.

#ScienceHearted



To learn more about CELMANAX contact your nutritionist, veterinarian or ARM & HAMMER™ representative or visit AHfoodchain.com.

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#ScienceHearted



Take a Team Approach to Intestinal Integrity

Ensuring Intestinal Integrity (I2) in your flock requires more than great products. It also requires program planning and rotational timing, management strategies, attention to I2 score and performance monitoring – all focused on overcoming your unique challenges.

Get all of that and more from the experts at Elanco, the trusted, experienced leader in Intestinal Integrity.

Contact your Elanco representative or visit [ElancoPoultry.com/I2](https://www.elanco.com/Poultry/I2) to learn more.

Confidence raised.

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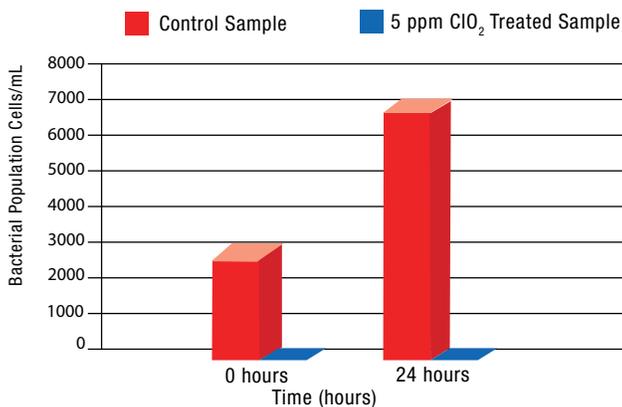
ProOxine® (AH) Disinfecting Solution For Animal Drinking Water

ProOxine® is the most effective tool for water management in animal facilities. ProOxine® keeps the bacteria level down in the water lines, and prevents biofilm from developing thus keeping the animals healthier by keeping down the pathogen level that could potentially travel from one animal to another. ProOxine® makes drinking water more palatable to poultry and livestock and therefore they drink more. Additionally, ProOxine® is highly effective in keeping water systems free of build up.

Efficacy of ProOxine® against Biofilm

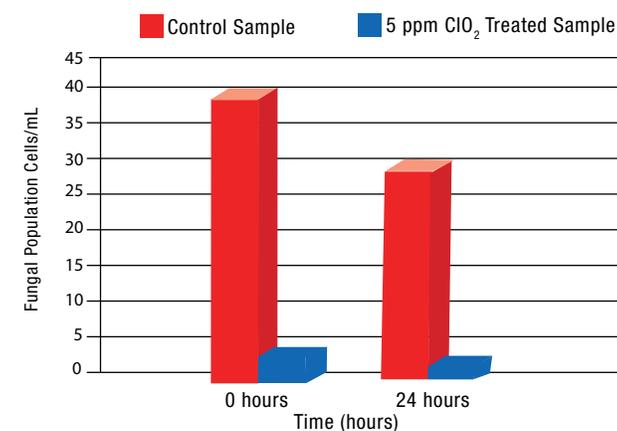
CONTROL EFFECT OF 5 ppm ClO₂ AGAINST BIOFILM BACTERIA

On Bacteria	Control Sample	5 ppm ClO ₂ Treated Sample
0 Hour	3000	30
24 Hours	7000	2



CONTROL EFFECT OF 5 ppm ClO₂ AGAINST BIOFILM FUNGI

On Fungi	Control Sample	5 ppm ClO ₂ Treated Sample
0 Hour	40	4
24 Hours	30	2

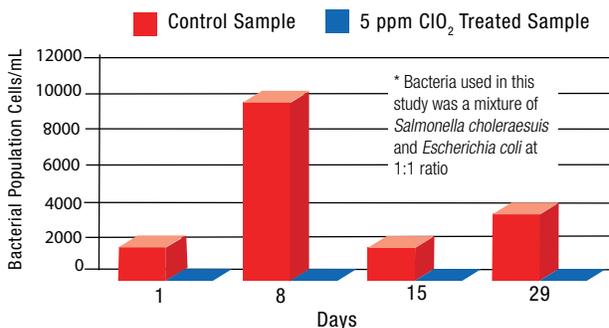


AANE (Automated Activation Non-Electric) System

Efficacy of ProOxine® against Salmonella and E-coli

REDUCTION OF BACTERIAL POPULATION* IN WATER AFTER CONTACT WITH 5 ppm CHLORINE DIOXIDE

On Bacteria	Control Sample	5 ppm ClO ₂ Treated Sample
1 Day	2000	20
8 Days	10000	2
15 Days	2000	2
29 Days	4000	2

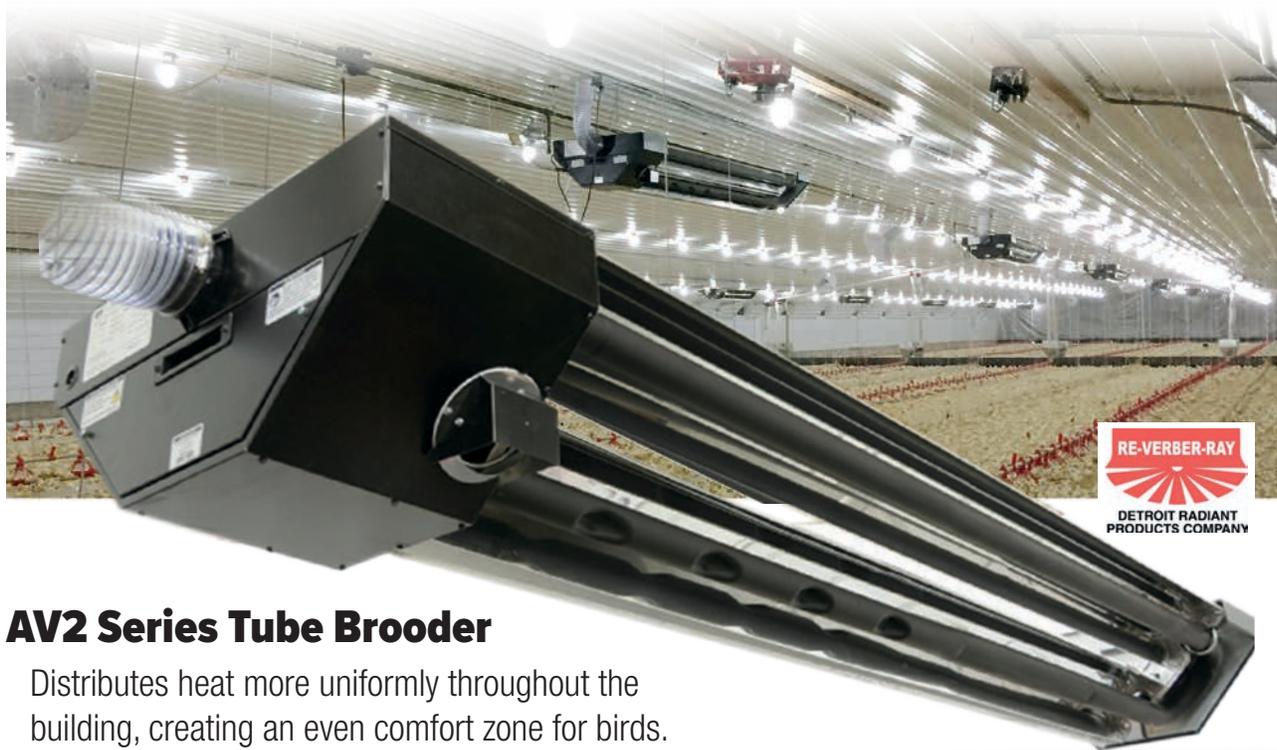


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**\Does not provide a source for bacterial growth greatly
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**Ultra-dry, fine composition resists moisture clumping
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NO MIXING

Available in
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and 400 pound
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Containers

DIRECTIONS

- Add as needed to foot pan to maintain a half-inch layer. (A thicker layer will not increase effectiveness.)
- Remove organic contaminants as necessary.
- Change out pan powder every 2 weeks for optimal results.

Gil Io-Poult & Gil Medic-Dyne

Multi-Purpose Iodine Supplement

**Gil Io-Poult: 1.75% titratable iodine
Gil Medic-Dyne: 3.5% titratable iodine**

Cold Weather Stable

Concentrate mixes readily in cold, hard water

Provides Essential Iodine to Poultry

**Cleans and conditions water drinking systems,
keeping them free of slime and mineral scale**

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**Consult your local sales or service representative
for use directions.**

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Knowledge

Through Production Tips

The Solution to Stock Solutions

Introduction

Medications – including vaccines, antibiotics and nutrients – are an expensive part of protecting swine from diseases and stress. The improper use of medicators, and especially the improper mixing of the stock solutions, can make the difference in delivering the appropriate dose per head or wasting the medication completely. For example, the results of inappropriate mixing in stock solutions can result in plugged proportioners, plugged nipples, low or no delivery of the medication to the animal, destruction of live vaccines or the inactivation of the medication due to reactions in the stock solution.

The following is a practitioner's point of view on the "Solution to Stock Solutions"

The Problem

- Most products in a stock solution are at high concentrations
- Products may be acidic, basic or neutral
- Acid base reactions tend to precipitate and or destroy products
- There is a lack of published compatibility testing of drugs to guide mixing
- Producers often want to use multiple products at one time
- Most barns have a single medicator

What I See in the Field

- Dirty buckets
- Buckets shared between products
- Buckets not cleaned on a daily basis
- Attempts to put (human) suspensions through the medicator
- The use of products where the maximum amount you can put in a stock solution results in under-dosing of the product and ultimately lack of efficacy
- Putting live vaccines into buckets previously used for antibiotics
- Using poor quality water for stock solutions

Examples of Poor Stock Solution Management



Looks Good From Afar!



Effect of Previous Product?



Vaccine Bucket has Antibiotics in it!

Combining Products Not Recommended



Not Recommended!



Wasted Outcome!

The Results of Inappropriate Mixing in Stock Solutions

- Plugged proportioner
- Plugged nipples
- Low or no delivery of the medication
- Destruction of live vaccines
- Inactivation of the medication due to reactions in the stock solution

BEST Practices for Stock Solution Preparation

- Use distilled water
- Product can be altered by tap/well water
- Chlorine/Iron/Other metals
- Q.S. (quantity sufficient)
- Add product then water
- Re-mix every 12 hours
- Use a different bucket for each medication
- Mark gallons on bucket
- Replace between groups of pigs
- Scrub the bucket between uses
- Break down and clean the medicator between products/uses
- Use liquid soap
- Rinse well
- Keep replacement washers on hand
- Clear the medicator and the water line between groups of pigs
- One cup bleach in a gallon of water (stock)
 - Can be corrosive to metal or concrete

Presented By:

Grant Weaver, DVM
 Technical Services Veterinarian
 Aurora Pharmaceutical, Inc.

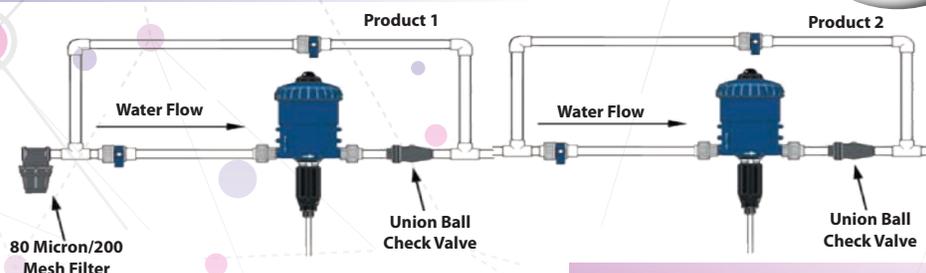


My Practice Tip

- The use of multiple medicators in series can be a good solution to the problem of trying to mix products into a concentrated stock solution

aurora
PHARMACEUTICAL

One, Two or None



The Advantages of This Approach

- Mixing products at 128 times less concentration
- Less chance of significant chemical or physical interactions in the dilute drinking water solution
- Aurora tested 27 common water-based preparations in all combinations and saw no interaction at the drinking water dilutions
- Those same 27 products mixed together in the stock solution reacted in 120 out of 408 combinations tried
- It is scalable

ORAL-PRO™ Sodium Salicylate Concentrate 48.6% w/v

- Aids in reducing fever caused by viral and bacterial infections
- Aids in reducing fever caused by heat stress from transportation, vaccination and processing
- Offers water solubility in hard water
- Available in 1-gallon no-spill plastic jugs

ORAL-PRO Sodium Salicylate Mixing Directions

Water Administration

DOSAGE LEVEL

WATER MEDICATOR

Water _____
Medicator

Add 8 oz (236 mL) to make 1 gal of stock solution and administer through a medicator metered at 1:128 (1 oz per gallon). This will achieve a daily target dose of 11.3 mg/lb (25 mg/kg) body weight daily

Tank _____

Add 8 oz (236 mL) to 128 gallons of drinking water. This will achieve a target dose of 11.3 mg/lb (25 mg/kg) body weight daily

BALANCE™ Stress and Dehydration Aid

- Increases water consumption and reduces body temperature in high-heat conditions
- Quicker rebound from stress-related issues including excess heat and handling
- Increases yield due to better hydrated animals and improves meat quality due to better muscle pH in animals at processing
- Available in easy-to-measure 40-lb. pails or 780-gm foil packets



BALANCE Mixing Directions

Water Administration

DOSAGE LEVEL

780-gm foil pack _____

WATER MEDICATOR

Administer 1 packet per 5 gallons of stock solution metered at 1 ounce per gallon (1:128) of drinking water

40-lb. bucket with scoop _____

Administer 3 cups per 5 gallons of stock solution metered at 1 ounce per gallon (1:128) of drinking water

DOSAGE LEVEL

780-gm foil pack _____

WATER TANKS

Administer 1 packet per 640 gallons of water (each packet treats approximately 64,000 pounds of livestock)

40-lb bucket with scoop _____

Administer 3 cups per 640 gallons of water (each cup treats approximately 21,300 lbs of livestock or 213 gallons drinking water)

Take Home Messages

- Mixing medications in stock solutions requires veterinary supervision
- Any mixing of medications causes them to fall under AMDUCA as an extra-label use
- Many products are not compatible when mixed in the stock solution
- Most products appear to be mixable at the drinking water concentration
- Always test product compatibility before mixing

www.aurorapharmaceutical.com

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