

Basic Biosecurity Checklist for Poultry Farms



Biosecurity in general refers to the methods taken to prevent disease from entering a country, region or farm. Biosecurity measures for daily operations are either meant to “isolate” a farm from pathogens or diseases that may come from outside the farm or “contain” a disease to prevent its spread to other farms during disease outbreaks. During disease outbreaks depending on the disease involved measures employed may be made stronger.

When implementing biosecurity measures on your farm you need to consider things like:

1. The diseases your farm will likely be challenged by e.g. Avian influenza
2. How the disease is transmitted e.g. Avian Influenza can be transmitted through droplets in the air or direct contact with sick birds.
3. Your farm setup and infrastructure
4. Number of personnel, etc.

Key to all of these is to manage disease transmission through the movement of people, equipment and birds. The strength of biosecurity measures is very dependent on the observation of the measures by the people working on the farm. It is thus important to develop standard operating procedures, signage and to routinely train personnel on biosecurity measures.



If you have no idea where to start. Here is a checklist you can use.

1.	Premises	YES	NO
	Are premises positioned away from major roads and routes?		
	Are premises situated away from dams and other major water bodies?		
	If there are waterbodies close by are they covered to prevent waterfowl from settling?		
	Are there Bio-security warning signs at the entrance?		

	You should have signs informing visitors of any biosecurity requirements you have e.g. Personal Protective Clothing)		
	Is the farm fenced with sufficient deterrents for predators & unauthorized access? (The farm or area around the chicken houses should ideally be completely fenced and unauthorized access prevented.)		
	Do you have trained site staff in control at access points to manage entrance and egress and help with biosecurity procedures?		
	Do you only allow essential vehicles, people and equipment on the farm?		
	Do you have a way of keeping record (e.g. visitor's book) at the access point? This book should record movement in and out of the farm of vehicles, equipment and people.		
	Do you have a way of checking whether visitors, to the farm have not been in contact with other poultry from other regions for at least 72 hours?		
	Do you have a way of checking where vehicles and equipment have been before entering?		
	Premises	YES	NO
	Do you have a way of properly disinfecting vehicles and equipment as they enter the farm?		
	Do you have a way of controlling that personnel do not bring in or take out chickens/equipment/visitors on the premises without proper authorization?		
	Do you ensure that the sequence of visiting flocks/houses is from the youngest flock age to the oldest flock age?		
	Is your shower unit/complex separated from the houses?		
	Do you ensure that there is no movement in the shower unit from the "clean" side to the "dirty" side?		
	Is the protective clothing issued assisting with distinguishing between visitors and staff?		
	Do you ensure that when site staff bring in food on site it is in a sealed container?		
	Is the office separate from entry and exit points and shower premises?		
	Is there a well maintained footbath placed at entrance to poultry houses on site?		
	Is there a notice of the correct use of footbaths close to where these are situated?		
	Are the sides of the poultry houses (anywhere where birds and vermin can enter) covered with a suitable netting material that prevent all unwanted birds?		
	Is there adequate vermin control?		
	Do you have a pest control procedure?		
	Is there a potable water supply?		
	Is water suitably and monitored?		
	Is your feed kept in an area that birds or vermin cannot access and is it protected from the elements?		
	Do you have a dedicated place where farm mortalities are kept and disposed of away from the chicken houses?		
	Is there adequate housekeeping both outside and inside the chicken houses?		
	Is there adequate drainage of water around the houses? Is the area around feed silos clean and does not attract vermin or birds?(No feed spillages)		

			
2.	Personnel	Yes	No
	Do your personnel shower upon entering and exiting the site?		
	If there is no shower facility is there a demarcated change facility?		
	Are personnel provided with a change of clothes from “street clothes”?		
	Do you provide for a place where personnel can store personal clothing and items at the external side/ “dirty” side of the shower?		
	Are your personnel provided with sufficient farm clothes hooks and storage space available at shower points of entry and exit?		
	Are you personnel provided with gumboots at shower points of entry and exit?		
	Are your personnel supplied with an additional pair of colour-coded boots on entry of the chicken houses?(need to be able to tell the difference between the boots for walking outside and inside the chicken house)		
	Are your personnel provided with protective wear?		
	All personnel entering or exiting using the footbath effectively?		
	Is the flow on the shower facility from dirty to clean?		
	Is the PPE provided clean and not a source of contamination for the farm? (PPE should be cleaned and decontaminated depending on the level of biosecurity desired)		
			
3.	Visitors	Yes	No
	Are vehicle access gates locked at all times?		
	Is the entrance and egress of persons on foot managed?		
	Are vehicle and equipment moved between farms?		
	Are vehicle and people checked if they have not been on another poultry farm? E.g. for at least the past three days.		
	Are visiting vehicles, personnel vehicles, and feed and maintenance vehicles at access point of entering sites and departure disinfected?		
	Are vehicle that transport placement, transfers and depletion chicks cleaned and disinfected?		
	Is there a dedicated “dirty” vehicle available for use in an event of a notifiable disease outbreak? (This vehicle is disinfected but is used to carry potentially contaminated things)		

			
4.	Equipment	Yes	No
	Is all equipment used on the farm and/or in the houses dedicated to the farm and/or chicken house?(ideally equipment should be dedicated to houses as far as possible)		
	Is all equipment entered on farm disinfected through fumigation or spraying with a disinfectant?		
	Is all farm equipment sanitized during the clean-out phase?		
	Is equipment kept in a sanitary condition to prevent harboring of dust, insects and vermin?		
			
5.	Feed	Yes	No
	Is feed sourced from a reputable supplier		
	Do they follow HACCP?		
6.	General	Yes	No
	Do you know your flock's disease status?		
	Do you purchase chickens from a reputable supplier (chicks and pullets)?		
	Do you have a vaccination programme?		
	Do you have adequate quarantine procedures for people, equipment and birds?		
	Are shavings adequately disinfected such that they do not introduce diseases?		
	Are personnel encouraged to have good hygiene practices? E.g. Use PPE and disinfectants as needed		
	Do you periodically train your personnel on biosecurity and how to identify sick chickens?		
	Do you have a Biosecurity Plan?		
	Do you have a cleaning and disinfection programme?		
	Are dead birds and manure handled in a way that does not pose a biosecurity risk?		
	Do you have standard operating procedures for ensuring that you comply with the things indicated above?		
	Comments and questions for your veterinarian:		

