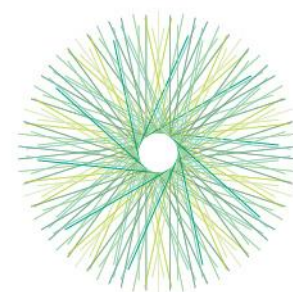


Press article

Biosecurity

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eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

Press article 500 words

How are farmers dealing with biosecurity?

Healthy animals, less medication and better prices through biosecurity

Animal health and welfare are key in good livestock farming. Improved biosecurity aims to safeguard and even improve animal health. Biosecurity measures are based on the principle of avoiding direct and indirect contact between groups of animals and reducing the general infection pressure. Jeroen Dewulf, expert on biosecurity, (Ghent University) explains: "Biosecurity leads to better health and production performance, less medication and better prices for the products. Biosecurity measures are fundamental to every animal health programme."

Biosecurity at herd level is divided into external and internal biosecurity. External biosecurity deals with all measures to prevent diseases from entering and leaving the herd. Dewulf: "What is important here is to have a safe sourcing of animals purchased and to quarantine them before they join the other animals. Where feasible, notably for poultry and pigs, it is important to have an 'all in /all out' approach." Internal biosecurity is the set of measures to prevent the spread of diseases in the herd. Proper separation of species or categories is useful and the management of diseased animals is especially important to avoid infecting other animals.

80 experts from 23 EU countries gathered in a workshop to exchange practices and experience and make recommendations for innovation and improving biosecurity in poultry, cattle and pigs. "The recommendations include easy measures such as separating the farm into a dirty and a clean area. For cattle it is important to separate different age groups in different compartments. As a general rule, all vehicles should be cleaned and disinfected before entering the farm" states Dewulf, who led the workshop.

As farmers are busy with daily operations, they often lack the time to make decisions to improve biosecurity on their farms. The University of Ghent in Belgium has developed a free online scoring system in several European languages that supports farmers in assessing and improving biosecurity in their pig or poultry herd through a questionnaire.

Through joint initiatives everyone involved can exchange knowledge, raise awareness and encourage others to make the necessary decisions and to take action to improve biosecurity. In the Spanish pig sector biosecurity is a growing concern. Rodent control is extremely important, one rat can contaminate 10 times the amount of feed it eats and is known to transmit 45 diseases including salmonellosis and swine dysentery. Spanish farmers have developed a special device to attract rodents with a non-toxic bait and trap them when they try to eat it. This new type of trap leaves no poison on the farm and no cadavers. It was first tested on the Swine Research Farm in Aguilafuente, Segovia in 2013 with good results. Around this farm, a network of participating farms was set up, promoting the take-up of this specific measure. This led to increased biosecurity and by the end of 2014, 59 farms were taking part and more than 70.000 rats were captured. This has resulted in healthy pigs, less medication, good product prices and happy farmers.

Press article 250 words

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As farmers are busy with daily operations, they often lack the time to make decisions to improve biosecurity on their farms. Through joint initiatives everyone involved can exchange knowledge, raise awareness and encourage others to make the necessary decisions and to take action to improve biosecurity. Spanish farmers have developed a special device to attract rodents with a non-toxic bait and trap them when they try to eat it. This new type of trap leaves no poison on the farm and no cadavers. It was first tested on the Swine Research Farm in Aguilafuente, Segovia in 2013 with positive results. By the end of 2014, 59 farms were taking part and more than 70.000 rats were captured. This has resulted in healthy pigs, less medication, good prices and happy farmers.

More information

The workshop on biosecurity

An EIP-AGRI workshop on biosecurity brought together 80 participants from 23 EU countries. They made recommendations for innovation and scaling up. The workshop report provides background information, examples of several measures and a quick overview on the current status of applying biosecurity. Measures with high potential for scaling up were listed as well as drivers and obstacles for improving biosecurity.

Examples of joint initiatives for implementation and improvement of biosecurity provided during the workshop:

- [Bovine tuberculosis in France](#) - Didier Demotte, GDS Dordogne (FESASS)
- [Poultry sector in the United Kingdom](#) - Daniel Pearson, Aviagen Ltd. (AVEC Poultry)
- [Improved biosecurity on Spanish pig farms by innovative rodent control](#) - Carlos Piñeiro, PigCHAMP Pro Europa S.L. (U.E.C.B.V.)

More information on biosecurity can be found:

- [EIP-AGRI workshop webpage](#)
- [Workshop report](#)
- [EIP-AGRI factsheet on biosecurity](#)

Background information

EIP-AGRI

The European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI) is one of five EIPs which have been launched by the European Commission in a bid to promote rapid modernisation of the sectors concerned by stepping up innovation efforts. The EIP-AGRI aims to foster innovation in the agricultural and forestry sectors by bringing research and practice closer together – in research and innovation projects as well as via the EIP-AGRI network.

EIPs aim to streamline, simplify and better coordinate existing instruments and initiatives and complement them with actions where necessary. Two specific funding sources are particularly important for the EIP-AGRI: the EU Research and Innovation framework, Horizon 2020, as well as the EU Rural Development Policy.

Proper biosecurity is an important element to ensure sustainability in the longer term. The EIP-AGRI website provides information about the options farmers, researchers and advisors have to work together on innovations and the funding opportunities available for this.

More information on www.eip-agri.eu

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