



Bio-Security Measures to Prevent Avian Influenza and Other Poultry Diseases

A Guide for Backyard Farmers



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Cover photo: Use of cage in backyard poultry raising.

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Table of Contents

	Page No.
I. Introduction	5
II. Avian Influenza	5
1. How does the virus spread?	5
2. How poultry disease spreads	6
III. How much bio-security do I need?.....	9
1. Isolation	9
2. Traffic control	11
3. Sanitation	11
IV. Middlemen and live bird market seller.....	13
V. Annex: Protocol for Cleaning and Disinfection.....	17

I- Introduction

Bio-security is the term that is used collectively to describe the different measures that are taken by farmers, poultry and poultry product traders, and transport workers to prevent and avoid the risks brought about by infectious diseases. These bio-security measures are also implemented to prevent diseases from spreading out from one place to another.

Diseases in poultry have a strong impact on the national socio-economic situation of any country and it is therefore important that a certain level of bio-security is applied in order to safeguard both animal and human health.

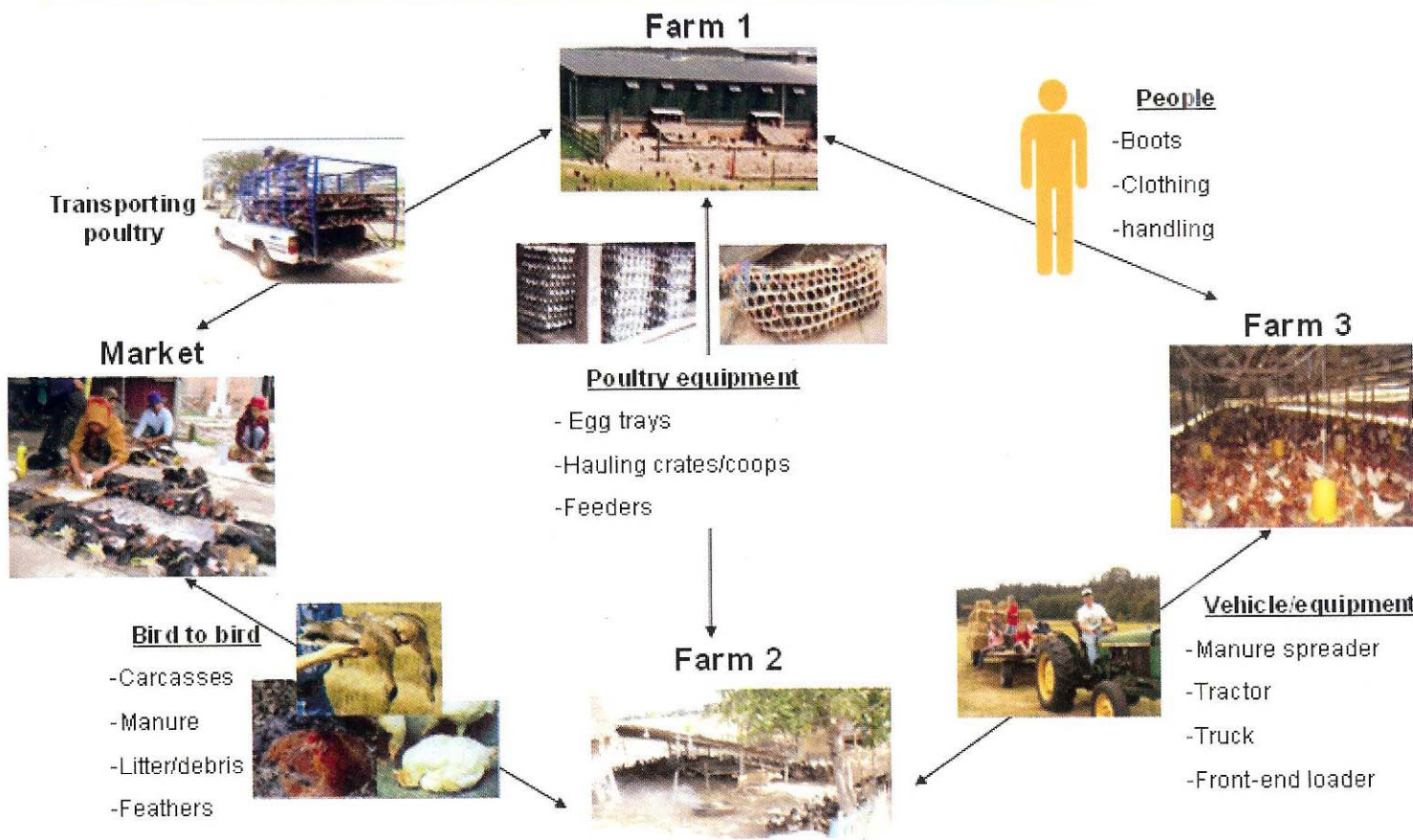
II- Avian Influenza (AI)

AI has also been more commonly referred to as Bird Flu. It is a highly lethal systemic disease that is caused by a virus. The disease can spread rapidly within a flock of birds causing high mortality and risk to human health. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is the type that is spreading in some parts of the world including Cambodia. All avian species (chicken, duck, turkey, quail, peacock and other wild birds especially wild water fowl) are susceptible to infection by the AI virus (AIV). Ducks can carry the AIV without any signs of illness and are considered to be the major reservoir for AIV infections to other domestic poultry.

How does the virus spread?

1. Contact with infected birds and infected poultry products.
2. Transportation of infected poultry and poultry products from place to place.
3. The use of contaminated vehicles and equipment or materials.
4. Gathering birds of unknown source from different places.
5. Using infected tools and other equipment and materials from other pens or places.
6. Visit of strangers into the yard close to the birds.
7. Raising poultry in open fields and without fence which exposes them to contaminated environment.
8. Market and slaughter places that are not cleaned and disinfected properly.
9. The virus can also be transmitted by humans, rodents, insects, flies, free-flying birds like sparrows, and seagulls etc.
10. Unknown source of feed and water.
11. Mixing different types of poultry.

How Poultry Disease Spreads



Transporting poultry and poultry products using contaminated vehicle could carry virus from one place to the next.