



BIOSECURITY AND ITS RISK FACTORS

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For Quantum Food's clients and poultry farmers

Introduction

Biosecurity is any management practice that is put in place to prevent the introduction and spread of disease into a farm or flock. In this write up, the focus will be on the importance of biosecurity in poultry industry.

Discussion

There are basically two types of management practices that encompasses biosecurity, and these are:

01 External biosecurity

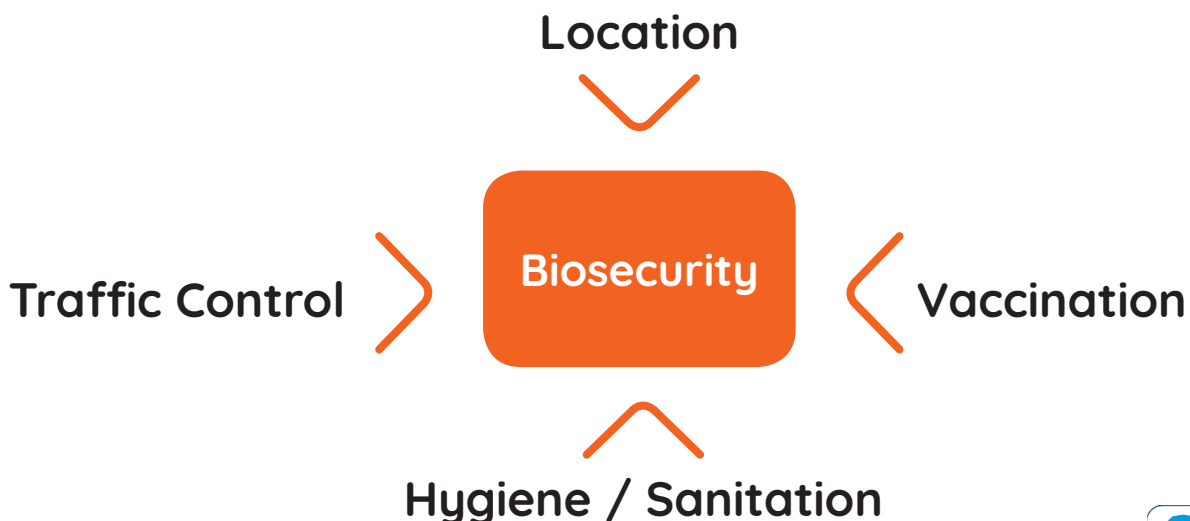
External biosecurity is basically the management practices put in place that involves the surrounding and/or environment of a flock i.e. the farm at large.

02 Internal biosecurity

Internal Biosecurity is the one that involves the immunity of the flock and or individual birds.

Now there are some important aspects of this biosecurity that needs to be understood especially if one needs to put up some effective preventive practices that will help a farmer reduce all possible costs that comes with treating a sick flock because of disease outbreak. These aspects are what we call the RISK FACTORS.

The important risk factors include; a. Location of the farm and/or isolation, b. Traffic control, c. Vaccination program, and d. Hygiene/sanitation of the farm. All the farm risks will determine what kind of management practices one can put up as shown in the diagram below.



A

The location of the farm is very important in biosecurity, if one has not yet acquired land for their poultry business, try to source land in an area that is as far away as possible from a lot of poultry and away from residential areas as this can pose a risk to your flocks due to a high density of poultry in that region. If one already has a farm in a poultry densely populated area, try to put up a good and effective vaccination program and as well as control other risks as we shall see below. Isolation of poultry is equally important because buildings will shield your flocks from wild animals specifically wild birds which are carriers of some infectious diseases, rodents as well as bad weather which can be a medium for disease spread.

B

The second risk for biosecurity is the control of traffic on your farm, this means that the visitors you have, suppliers, vaccination teams, vets, new flocks, equipment etc should all be strictly monitored, avoid having a lot of visitors especially those coming from other poultry farms. Always disinfect supplier vehicles upon entrance to your farm. If sourcing farm equipment from neighbouring farms, ensure that they are disinfected before use.

C

A good and effective vaccination program is important for the internal protection of your flocks. Remember we cannot physically see what is happening inside the chicken unless they show some signs of disease, therefore it is important to ensure that the bird's immunity is protected especially from the diseases prevalent in your region. Equally source vaccines from a good and reputable supplier so as not to compromise the health status of the flock. Always use the correct vaccine, correct strain, correct dose and good and effective application to ensure good protection.

D

The last but not the least important risk factor is the Hygiene/sanitation of the poultry premises which include the poultry houses especially after culling or before placement, hygiene of the house operators and hygiene of the poultry equipment. It is important to follow the correct cleaning and disinfection procedures of the poultry houses; both the dry and wet cleaning. If possible provide shower facilities for the house operators otherwise it is advisable to change the clothing and avoid unnecessary movements between different poultry houses. Use disinfectants as recommended by supplier.