



BIOSECURITY PRACTICES IN CHICKEN FARMS



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What is Biosecurity practices?

Biosecurity practices are management practices that reduce the possibility of introducing diseases and parasites into a chicken flock or hatchery. These practices can be categorized into three major groups including:

- Isolation of premises and the chicken from sources of infection
- Controlling traffic flow in and out of chicken premises
- Sanitation practices

a) Isolation

To isolate chicken from sources of infection, the following measures need to be implemented:

- Keep different bird species and ages separately.
- Quarantine new birds for at least 14 days before introducing them to the rest of the flock. Abstain from buying birds from markets, buy from flocks with known health status.
- Quarantine for at least 14 days any birds that left the home for sale or show.
- Trays used to deliver eggs away from the premises should be cleaned and disinfected before use in the flock.
- Identify and separate clean and dirty operations in the farm and implement a work-flow starting with the clean and ending with the dirty operations.
- Place barriers such as chicken wire netting to prevent flock contact with wild birds, animals or domestic pets.

b) Control traffic flow in and out of the chicken premise through the following measures:

- Fencing of the premises. Place lockable gates at the entrance and exits of the premises.
- Restrict human and vehicle movement into and within the farm.
- Ensure presence of foot baths and or vehicle baths with disinfectant at the entrance to premises.
- Controlling movement of equipment and products to and from the farm.



Foot and vehicle bath at the entry of a poultry unit

- Sanitation practices include: Washing and sanitization off hands before and after handling the birds or their egg; regular cleaning and disinfection of overalls and foot ware for use in the chicken house.

- Ensure availability of farm overalls and footwear for farm workers and anyone accessing the chicken premises; ensure observation of good personal hygiene among workers and those accessing the poultry premises. Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles, chicken house and equipment and using showers, fumigation and frequent wash.

Who should adopt the use of biosecurity practices?

- Small, medium and large-scale chicken farmers
- Hatcheries
- Researchers
- Extension service providers
- Input service providers/agro-dealers
- Output market players—buyers

Where can it be used?

Biosecurity practices should be adopted in;

- All chicken premises
- Hatcheries and
- Slaughter facilities in all regions of Kenya