

On Farm Biosecurity

Provincial Perspective

.....

Keystone Agricultural Producers

Biosecurity Workshop

November 25, 2008



On Farm Biosecurity

What do we mean by “On farm biosecurity”?

- Methods of preventing the introduction of biohazards into the food (crops and livestock) grown on farms *at the farm level*.
- Biohazards are biological agents, such as infectious microorganisms, or conditions that constitutes a threat to people or animals.
- The potential danger, risk, or harm from exposure to such an agent or condition.

On Farm Biosecurity

What On Farm biosecurity is not:

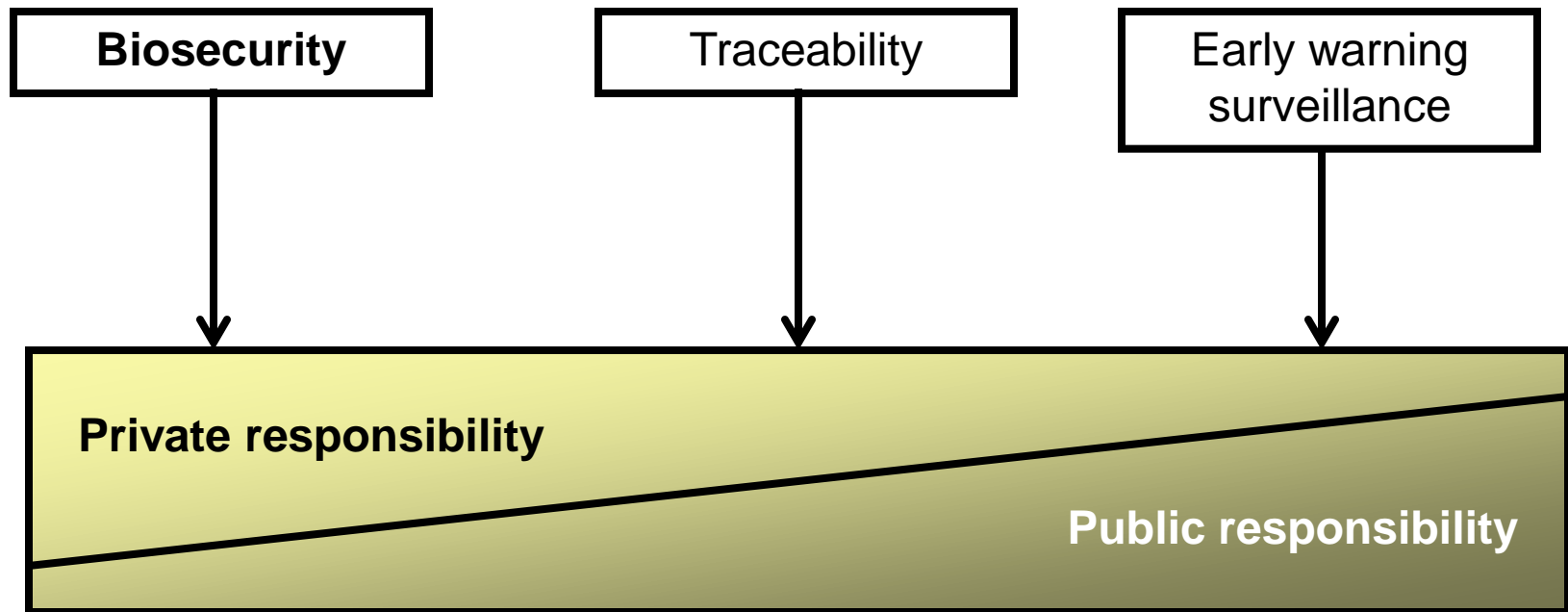
- Does not directly address personal biosecurity.
- Does not cover all areas of food safety.
- Does not identify a biohazard or fully respond to it. It is a method of prevention.
- Is NOT Effective, if not done properly and not monitored.

On Farm Biosecurity

Why is On Farm Biosecurity important?

- One of a trio of risk mitigation tools
- “an ounce of prevention...”: Focus on preventing the introduction of a biohazard.
- Is the method of risk mitigation where the individual producer has the most input.

Trio of Risk Mitigation Tools



On Farm Biosecurity

- On Farm biosecurity – Individual producer has the primary role.
- Responsible to their fellow producers and the public for the biosecurity of the animals, plants or people that enter or exit their farm.

On Farm Biosecurity

- Producer responsibilities
- Can not restrict all access but must be able to dictate the terms of access
 - Quarantines, down times, cleanliness, monitoring, timing
 - Only reasonable to dictate terms if terms are written down, meet an acceptable standard and monitoring is occurring

On Farm Biosecurity

Challenges for Manitoba (and beyond)

- Increasing biohazard risks: FMD, AI, BSE
- Lack of methods of identifying potential hazards and their significance.
- Integration of methods has not occurred between and within industry and agencies
 - Different Best Practices for types of agricultural production.
- Acceptance of extra costs & responsibility for both producers and farm visitors

On Farm Biosecurity

Provincial approach for livestock operations

- Promote integrated approach
- Promote the use of risk based methods.
- Expand the capabilities of identifying and assessing risk for agri-industry.
- Develop protocols that are risk based and can function as base line.
- Provide education and training on the use of basic protocols.

On Farm Biosecurity

1. Support of Integration and risk based methods
 - Participation nationally in development of biosecurity standards for poultry industry
 - Participation in Provincial Biosecurity working group

On Farm Biosecurity

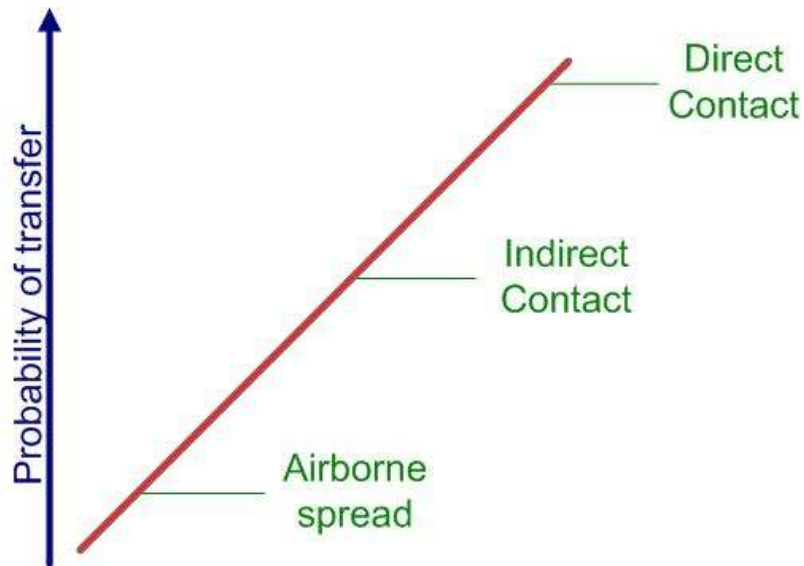
2. Risk Identification

- Use of disease modeling to identify significant farm contacts and the effects of different levels of biosecurity
- Preliminary findings consistent with those in other regions: Movement of people, equipment, etc play a significant role in disease transmission.

Methods of Biohazard Movement

- Airborne / Aerosol
- Direct Contact
 - With other animals or people
- **Indirect Contact**
 - With objects (Fomites): Vehicles, boots, clothes, equipment, feedstuffs: *It is what we bring to farms that matters most.*

Risks of Biohazard Movement



- For single movements, direct contact always has a higher probability of transfer
- **BUT**, significantly more indirect contacts occur, making these contacts far more likely to spread disease.

On Farm Biosecurity

3. Development of basic biosecurity protocol for farm visit to livestock operations.
 - Risk based
 - Simple and practical
 - Available for agencies and industry
 - Base line only, If in place, more advanced protocols must be respected.

Biosecurity Protocols

- The best practices and procedures that decrease the potential risk of exposure to a biohazard
- Must be:
 1. Effective
 2. Recorded
 3. Implemented
 4. Audited
- Example: HACCP for food safety

On Farm Biosecurity SOP

Intent of any good Biosecurity SOP:

- Decrease the risk of biohazard movement
- Consistent, transparent approach to farm visits.
- Increase producer awareness to biosecurity

On Farm Biosecurity SOP

Common sense approach to Risk: How risky is the visit?

- **Low:** No contact with livestock
- **Moderate:** Sampling feed, manure, etc
- **High:** testing/weighing/working with livestock.
- *The higher the risk, the more precautions need to be taken.*

On Farm Biosecurity SOP

Common sense approach

- Stay as clean as possible
- Wash up after visit
- Keep dirty separate from clean
- Inform producers of potential risks



On Farm Biosecurity SOP

Auditing

- Purpose is to provide documentation that the protocol is being used properly.
- Expectation is for auditing to occur twice a year.
- Farm Visit Log makes this possible

Questions?