



# **Future EU Animal Health Regulation: a step forward to a better biosecurity?**

Nordic-Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group

"Biosecurity, experiences, training, motivation and economic aspects"

6-8 May, 2014, Johannesbergs Castle, Sweden

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**This presentation does not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission**

# Outline

- **Biosecurity:** a challenge for the EU Animal Health Regulation
- **In preparation of the Animal Health Regulation:** Impact Assessment - how much biosecurity is realistic?
- **Animal Health Regulation (COM proposal):** new elements of prevention and biosecurity
- **Conclusion**

# Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013)

**“Prevention is better than cure”**

**Ambitions: high**



A new Animal Health Strategy  
for the European Union (2007-2013) where  
“Prevention is better than cure”



# Animal Health Regulation & biosecurity

- *What is understood under biosecurity?*
- *How to measure good biosecurity?*
- *How much biosecurity do we already have in EU?*
  - **A lot exists!**
  - **Where are weak points?**
- *How much biosecurity do we want in future?*
- *How much can we afford?*
- *What is proportionate?*
- *What are possible incentives?*
- *Who should be responsible?*

# What is biosecurity? How to define it?

- *A set of measures / A single measure*
- *Physical/chemical measures*
- *Management measures*
- *On farm / broader biosecurity*
- *Dependent on external conditions (climatic, epidemiology, structural and cultural conditions)*
- *External/internal measures*
  - **Internal vs. external biosecurity – bio-exclusion vs. bio-containment**



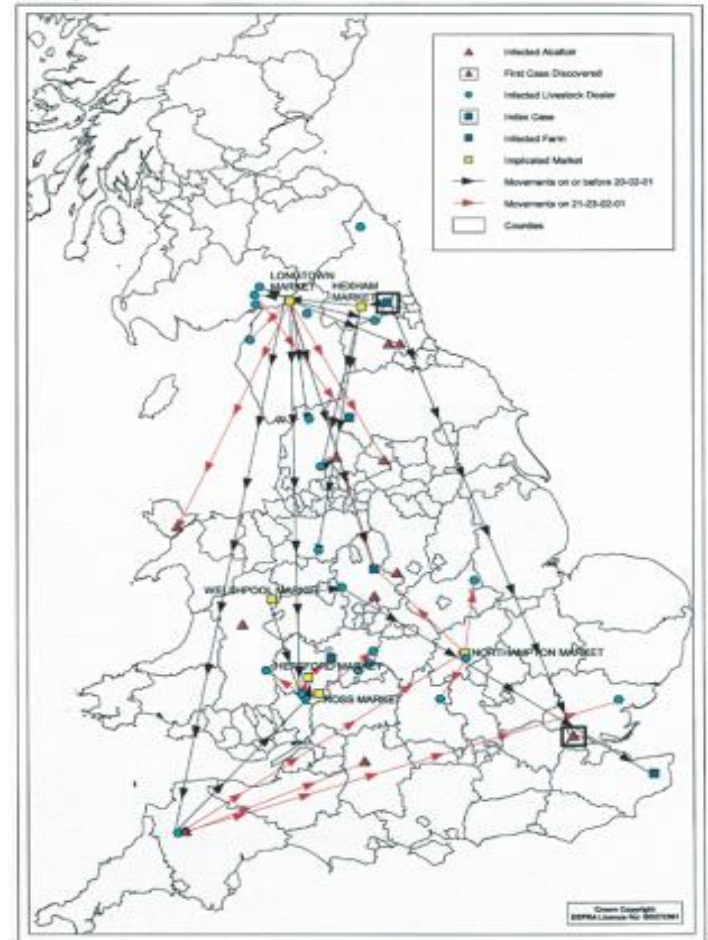
# How to measure biosecurity?

## *Spread of FMD in GB, 2001*

*Difficult to measure the benefits of biosecurity measures (what is the counterfactual?)*

*Easier to demonstrate negative effects if biosecurity doesn't work*

Select Committee - 31 Oct 2001  
Movement of FMD infected animals before 23rd February 2001 and location of implicated markets, abattoirs and dealers



Subject to information available on 24/10/01

Source: Defra

# **In preparation of the Animal Health Regulation: Impact Assessment - how much biosecurity is realistic?**

# In preparation of the AH Regulation: Impact assessment

- *Impact assessment*
- *Preparatory activities:*
  - **General stakeholder consultation**
  - **CVO Seminar (Jönköping, 2009)**
  - **MS experts working groups**
  - **Other specific activities:**
    - Questionnaire on biosecurity guidelines
    - Administrative burdens and costs questionnaires targeted to assess biosecurity plans

First reality  
check



# Impact Assessment

- *Questionnaire on biosecurity guidelines (summary results):*
  - **Few biosecurity guidelines at EU level**
  - **Some at national level, regional/local level, some set by industry**
  - **Nearly half designed for prevention of specific diseases**
  - **Many cover infectious and non-infectious diseases and good husbandry generally**
- *Questionnaires on administrative costs & burdens and compliance costs: biosecurity plans*
  - **Competent Authorities**
  - **Operators**

# Biosecurity Plans: Competent Authority Responses

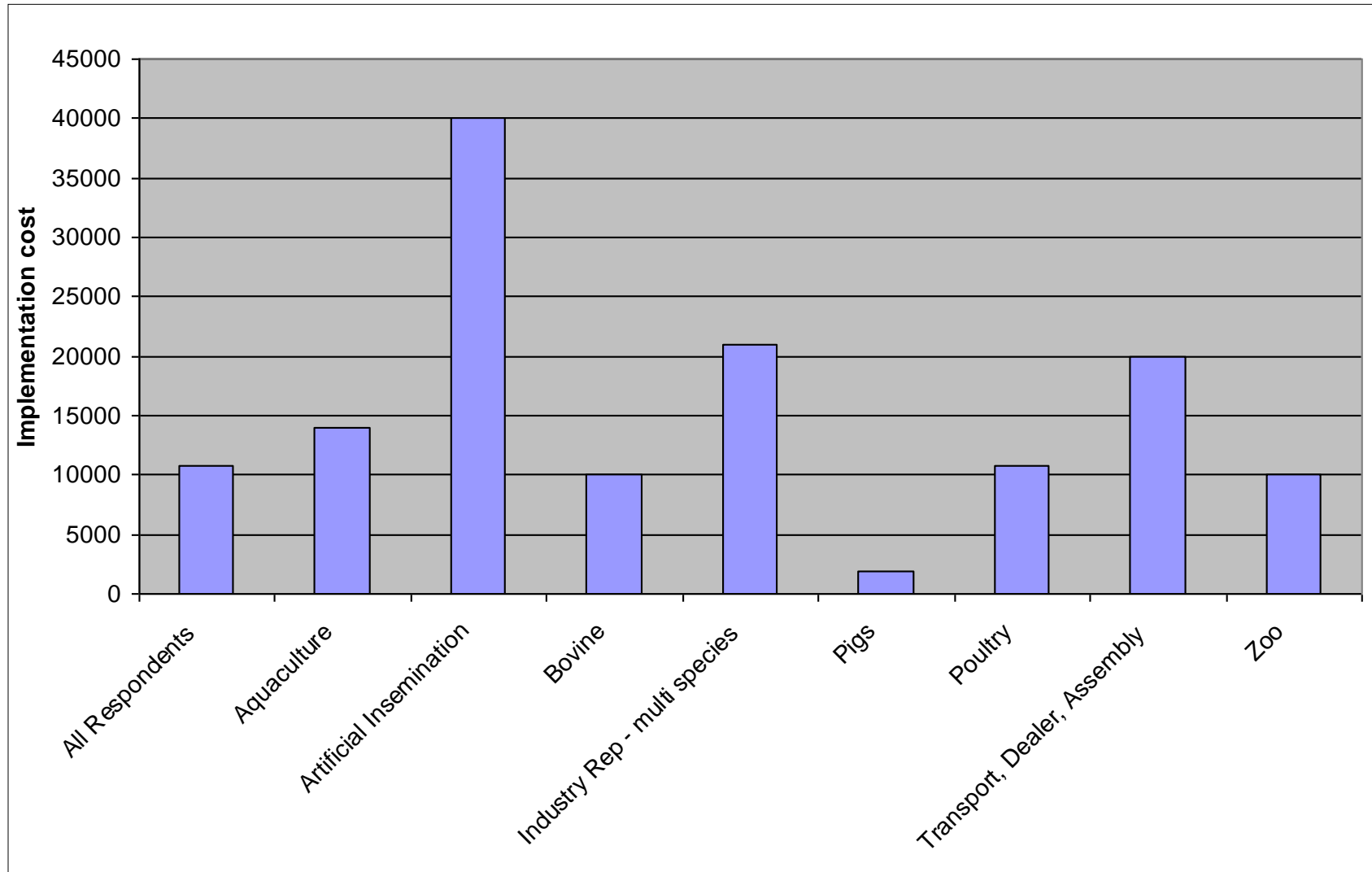
- *CAs (central, regional, local) asked about the personnel and resources needed to develop guidelines, approve and assess biosecurity plans*
- *Time to develop guidelines ranged from 16 – 2400 hours (median = 200 hours)*
- *Assessing plans (desk exercise) average time = 13 hours*
- *Field inspection 30 mins – 40 hours (average time = 16 hours)*

# Biosecurity Plans: Operator Responses

- *Operators asked about costs of developing and implementing biosecurity plans*
- *Cost of drafting a plan:*
  - **On average €2,000, but large range of costs estimated and varied across sectors**
  - **Skew in responses – most results clustered around low drafting costs but a few for much higher**
- *Implementation costs range much wider:*
  - **'working time' only - maximum of €365,000**
  - **Median = €10,750, although varied between sectors**
- *Several respondents highlighted likelihood of ongoing costs of maintaining higher biosecurity standards*



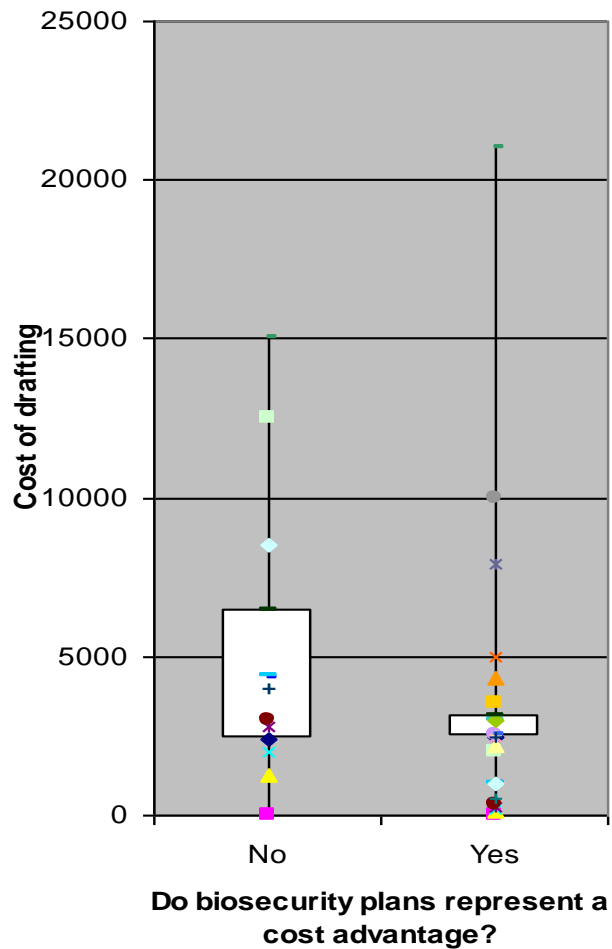
# Median Implementation Cost, by species sector



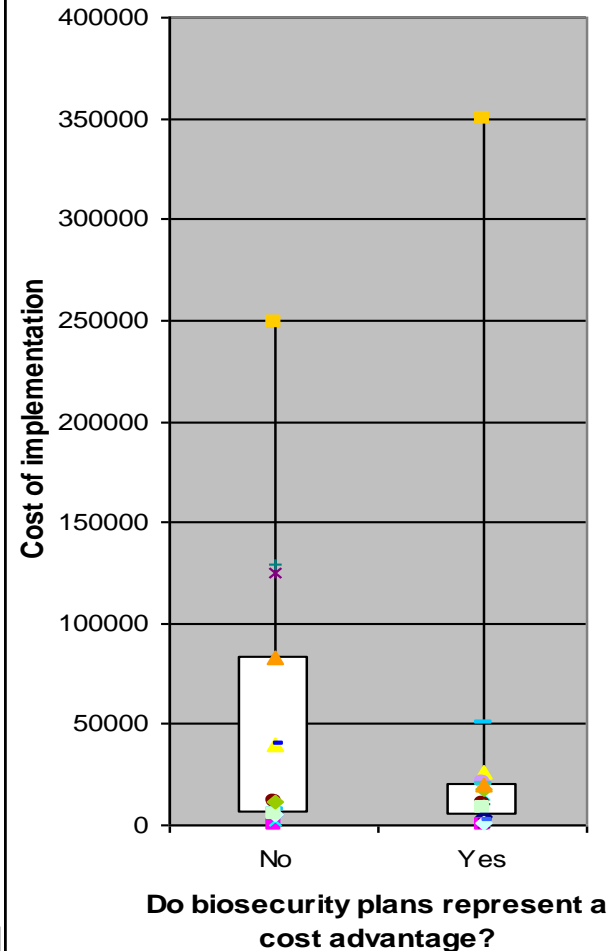


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**Distribution of drafting costs, depending on whether biosecurity plans represent a cost advantage**



**Distribution of implementation costs, depending on whether biosecurity plans are viewed as a cost advantage**



# Lessons learned

- *High expectations not (always) meeting reality (costs/burdens)*
  - **Need to balance risks of poor biosecurity with costs of excellent biosecurity**
- *Conclusions:*
  - **Basic biosecurity for all ✓**
  - **Scope for voluntary higher standards ✓**
  - **Incentives to be provided ✓**
  - **Best use of already existing initiatives, i.e. hygiene package, etc. ✓**

# **Animal Health Regulation (COM proposal): new elements of prevention and biosecurity**

# Animal Health Regulation: prevention

- *More prevention:*
  - **Biosecurity** at farms, in transport, assembly, at borders
  - **Enhanced and structured surveillance, disease notification and reporting**
  - **Improved knowledge and diseases awareness**
  - **Clearer policy for the use of vaccines** and in relation to disease control & diagnosis **also some other veterinary medicines**
  - **AMR pathogens considered as "diseases"**
    - Different disease preventive and control measures may be applied
  - **More tools to control emerging diseases**





# Biosecurity definition (Animal Health Regulation)

*'biosecurity' means the sum of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of the introduction, development and spread of diseases to, from and within:*

- (a) an animal population, or*
- (b) an establishment, zone, compartment, means of transport or any other facilities, premises or location*

# Biosecurity requirements in AH Regulation

- *General biosecurity:*
  - **Biosecurity at farms, in transport, assembly, at borders**
  - **Responsibilities:**
    - Operators = farmers, laboratories, others i.e. transporters, assembly operations
    - Farmers associations and other providing support
    - Veterinarians & aquatic animal health professionals
    - Competent Authority
- *Specific biosecurity measures (higher level):*
  - **Compartments**
  - **Confined establishments**
- *Detailed biosecurity requirements:*
  - **to be complemented in delegated acts**

# Biosecurity: role in AH Regulation

- *Biosecurity as:*
  - **Precondition for approval of establishments**
  - **Risk mitigating measure to enable certain types of movements**
  - **Condition for obtaining recognition of certain statuses (eg. confined establishment)**
  - **Condition for transporting animals, germinal products, etc.**
  - **Essential requirement for conducting assembly operations**
  - **Possibility for specific measures at borders (together with official controls regulation)**
- *Recognition of biosecurity & surveillance systems*
  - **For animal health certification**

# Incentives

- *Incentives for operators and MSs:*
  - **Economic gains: Better health situation, higher production, fewer costs for treatments**
  - **Fewer crises**
- *Benefits for operators and traders:*
  - **Increased disease awareness**
  - **High level biosecurity for movement between MS (compartments, confined establishments)**
  - **Other incentives (financial, promotion of vaccination...)**
- *Official recognition of standards for operators:*
  - **Biosecurity & surveillance system to replace individual certification of each consignment?**
  - **"EU holding" – achievable target?**

# Conclusion

- ***Biosecurity - a challenge: wishes vs. reality***
- ***AH Regulation: a number of biosecurity elements complementing each other***
  - ***used together with other disease control and preventive measures***
- ***AH Regulation provides tools for:***
  - ***more structured prevention incl. biosecurity***
  - ***recognition of effective biosecurity***



***Are we ready for this new concept and how much will we dare to use it?***