Biosecurity in cattle: animal transport practices

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Background

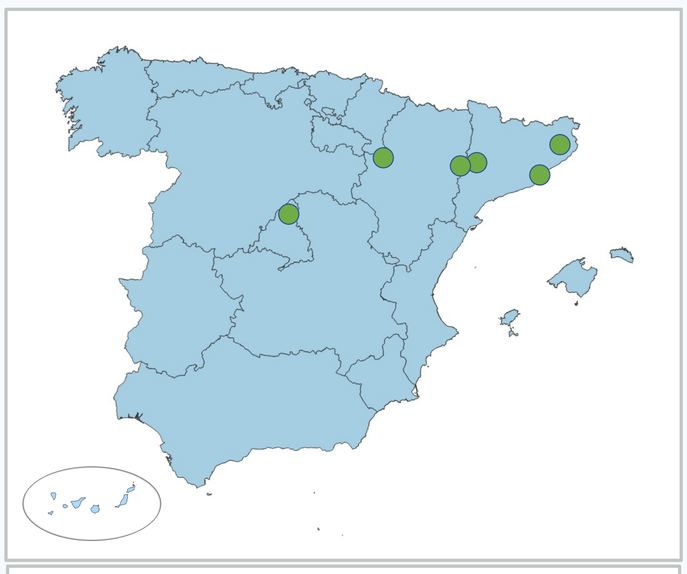
- Animal transport vehicles can be a risk for the transmission of pathogens between cattle farms.
- There are limited data about biosecurity practices on animal transport.

Objective

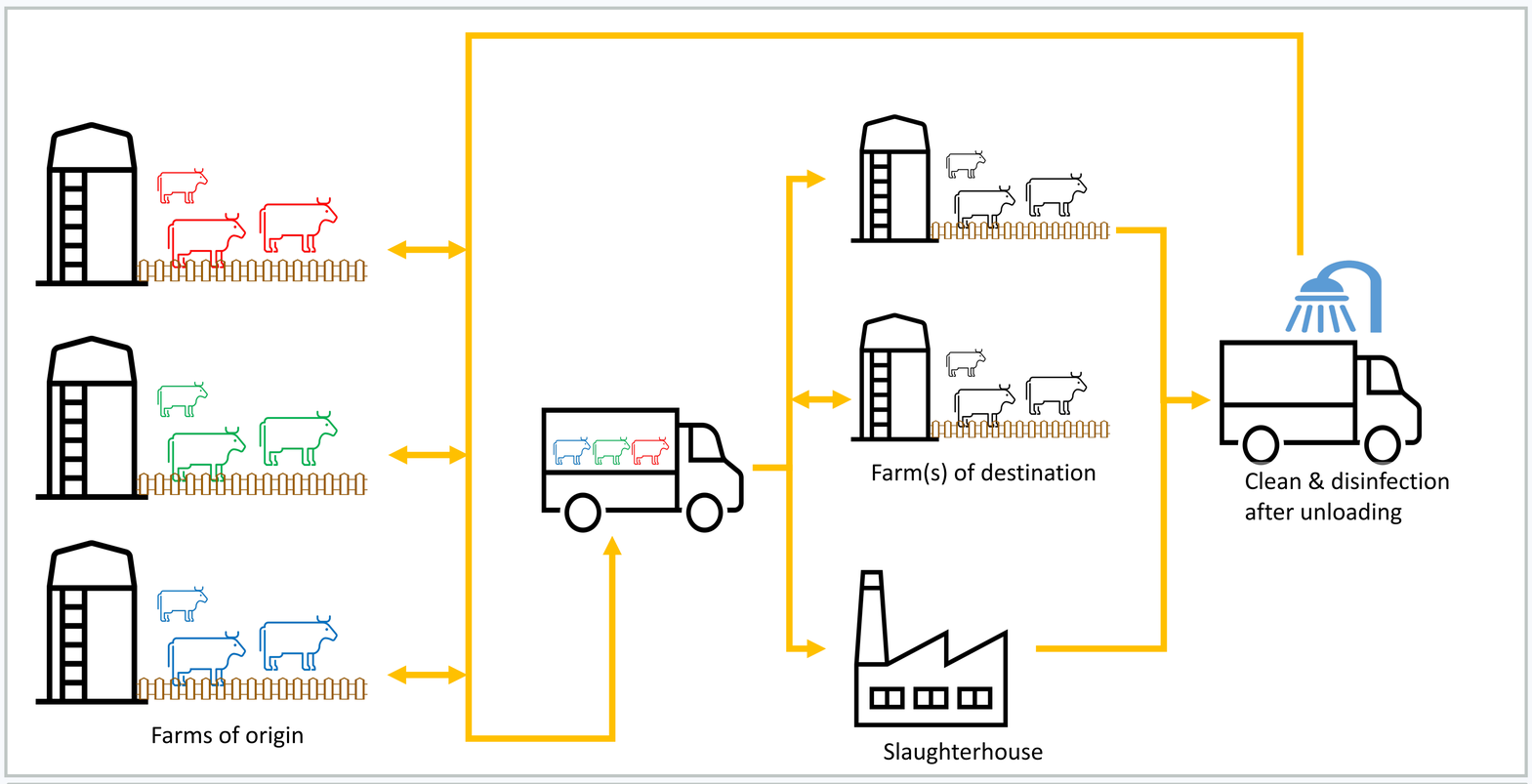
Characterization of biosecurity in cattle transport, and identification of barriers and limitations toward its implementation.

Methods

☒ Explorative interviews with truck drivers. ☒ Design of a survey. Main sections: - Number of travels / week. - Farms visited per day and their production type (dairy / beef). - Biosecurity practices during loading/unloading cattle. - Clean & disinfection (C&D) of trucks and clothes.	**Concluded**
☒ Conduct the survey (face-to-face or by phone): - Estimated sample size ≈90. - Drivers from all Spain. - Local and internationals routes.	**Ongoing**
☒ Descriptive analysis. ☒ In-deep interviews with drivers to identify barriers toward the implementation of certain biosecurity measures	Planned



Green spots represent the location of drivers that have already been surveyed.



Work flow for cattle transport, which illustrates the main points/steps that were considered for the risk assessment of diseases introduction through animal movements.

Results

- 8 surveyed drivers:
  - Typically 1.5 (1.0 - 2.0) travels/day, but sometimes reaching 3.0 travels/day.
  - 87.5% answered that they enter the perimeter of the farm very frequently.
  - 62.5% of drivers “very frequently” have contact with cattle that will remain on the farm.
  - 52.3% (Q1 22.5% - Q3 91.2%) share transport with animals from different farms.
  - 100.0% of drivers C&D the truck after unloading.
- Most common measures implemented were exclusive work clothes to load/unload animals and C&D of the truck.

Discussion & Conclusions

- Even though 100% of the drivers C&D the transport after use, they also reported that facilities were not always adequate for C&D activities.
- Preliminary results suggest that some animal transport practices should be reviewed to reduce the risk of pathogen transmission.

Acknowledgement

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