

# Poultry catching : an Achille's heel for biosecurity?

## Practices, attitudes and solutions to improve compliance

Sophie Planchand<sup>1</sup>, Oksana Saccavini<sup>1</sup>, Chloé Chavoix<sup>1</sup>, Marion Pertusa<sup>3</sup>, Nathalie Rousset<sup>3</sup>, Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt<sup>2</sup>, Jean-Luc Guérin<sup>1</sup>, Mathilde C Paul<sup>1</sup>, and Mattias Delpont<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>IHAP, université de Toulouse, INRAE, ENVT, Toulouse, France

<sup>2</sup>Department of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Université de Montréal, St-Hyacinthe, QC, Canada

<sup>3</sup>Institut Technique de l'Aviculture, UMT Sanivol, Paris, France

### Why catching?

- Catching = taking poultry from the barn and loading a truck for transport to another farm or a slaughterhouse.  
→ **requires workforce.**
- **Often overlooked** in biosecurity protocols or audits.
- Catchers and their vehicle are going from farm to farm in a single night : **high pathogen dispersal potential!**

### Our questions

- How is poultry catching **conducted**?
- How is biosecurity **respected** during catching?
- How is biosecurity during catching **perceived** by farmers, catchers, vets and advisors?
- How can we **improve biosecurity** during catching?

### Study 1

#### Detailed questionnaire

- 40 free-range chicken farmers
- Biosecurity practices, attitudes, knowledge
- Spring 2022, high HPAI risk zone

### Study 2

#### Semi-structured interviews

- Multi-actor : 6 farmers, 3 catching enterprise owners, 1 catching crew leader, 4 vets, 3 advisors, 1 integration manager
- Interactions between these actors
- Biosecurity/catching practices, attitudes
- Drivers of change
- Spring 2022, high HPAI risk zone

### Study 3

#### Multi-actor coaching

- Upcoming
- Tailored to each farm
- Farmers from study 2

### Key Results

**Catching crew vehicle** parked too close to the barn + seldom disinfected.

#### Anteroom :

- too small for a whole crew
- only used as a cloakroom (no zone separation)
- Hands seldom cleaned upon arrival
- Boots seldom changed over line of separation.

**The line of separation** (=surrounds the area where animals are housed) is not respected/defined during catching.

**Farmer and catcher communication:**

- Language barrier
- Farmer may not dare giving orders.

**Multiple catching** events for a same flock (80%), over an average of 3.75 days.

Most farmers believe that there are no majors material and time constraints to good biosecurity during catching.

Most farmers believe that even though their poultry is sent to slaughterhouse there is still a risk of farm contamination **BUT** they don't believe that multiple catching poses a higher risk.

Most farmers agree that catching is a cumbersome and difficult job for catchers.

### In a nutshell

- ✓ **Many biosecurity breaches** identified
- ✓ **Reasons and responsibilities** for breaches – considering the diversity of actors who play a role in catching, directly or indirectly :
  - Industry : decides on multiple catching events
  - Catchers : lack of formation, biosecurity not always compatible with working conditions (time, equipment, night work)
  - Farmers : variable risk perception, variable consideration for catchers activity.