



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Disease Risk Management

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## Acknowledgements:

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1. Endemic, public health risk (campylobacter)
2. Exotic disease risk (AI, ND)
3. Poultry registration database
4. DAFM coordination



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# 1. Endemic, public health risk (campylobacter)

# Campylobacter stakeholders' group



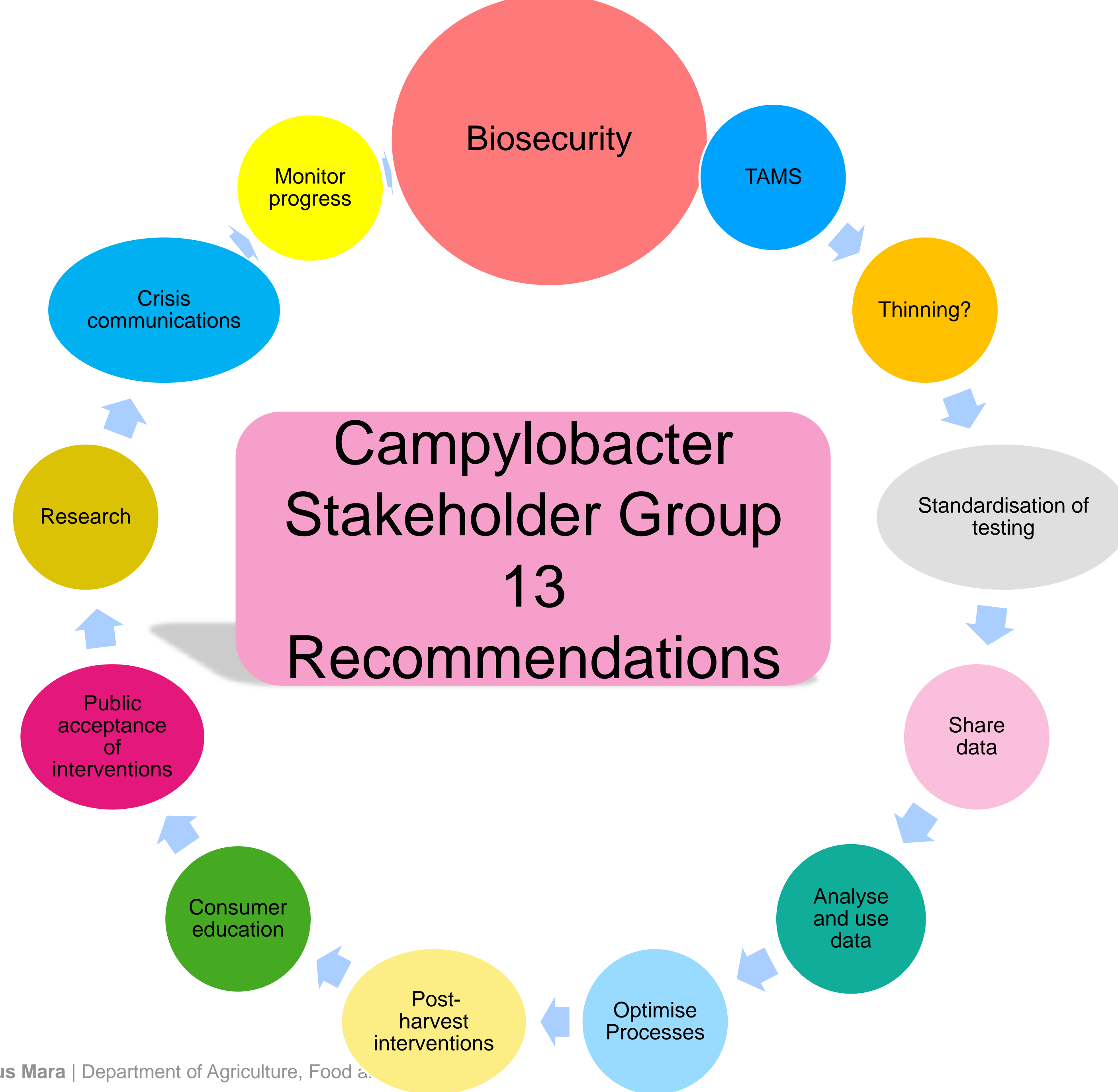
- Who? - all those involved in producing and selling poultry, and poultry products.
- Why? - ensure that all that can be done is being done to ensure Irish chicken is as safe as possible and that best practices for the control of campylobacter are adopted and implemented.

# Campylobacter stakeholders' group



- When? - Convened July 2015, Recommendations Report launched April 2017.
- How? - Report lists 13 recommendations, each with a subset of actions.





# Campylobacter stakeholders' group



## Key concerns of the Stakeholder Group (top 4):

- Absence of consistent monitoring impairs trend analysis, measurement of success
- Poor standardisation of sampling
- Absence of standard laboratory protocols
- Variable farm biosecurity

# Campylobacter stakeholders' group



## Final recommendation:

Establishment of a small stakeholder group to monitor campylobacter control, set targets and timeframes, ensure recommendations are progressed and keep stakeholder apprised of developments



# Campylobacter stakeholders' group



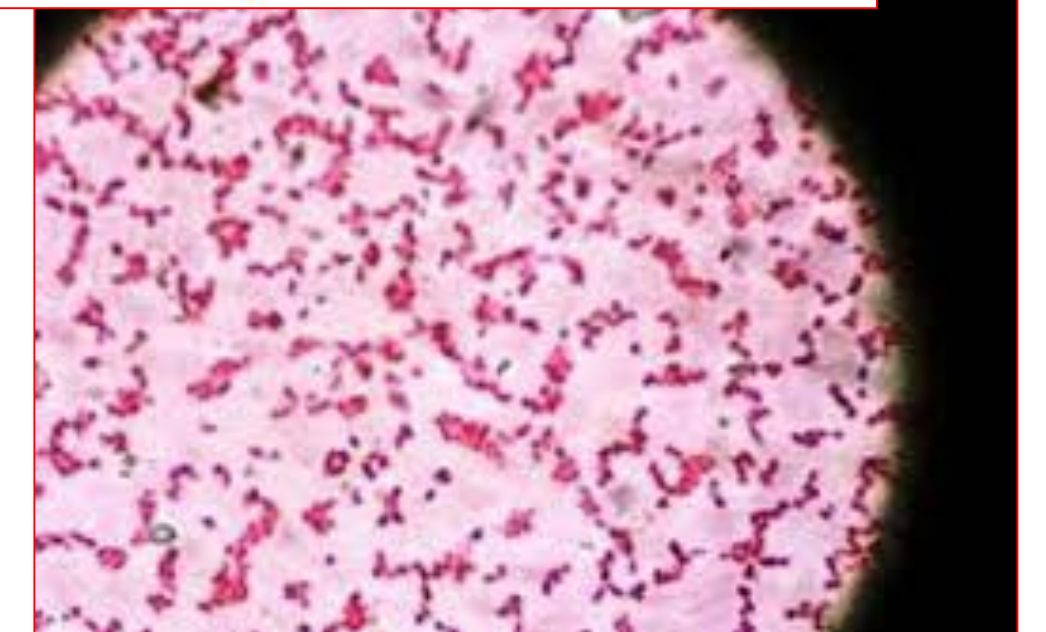
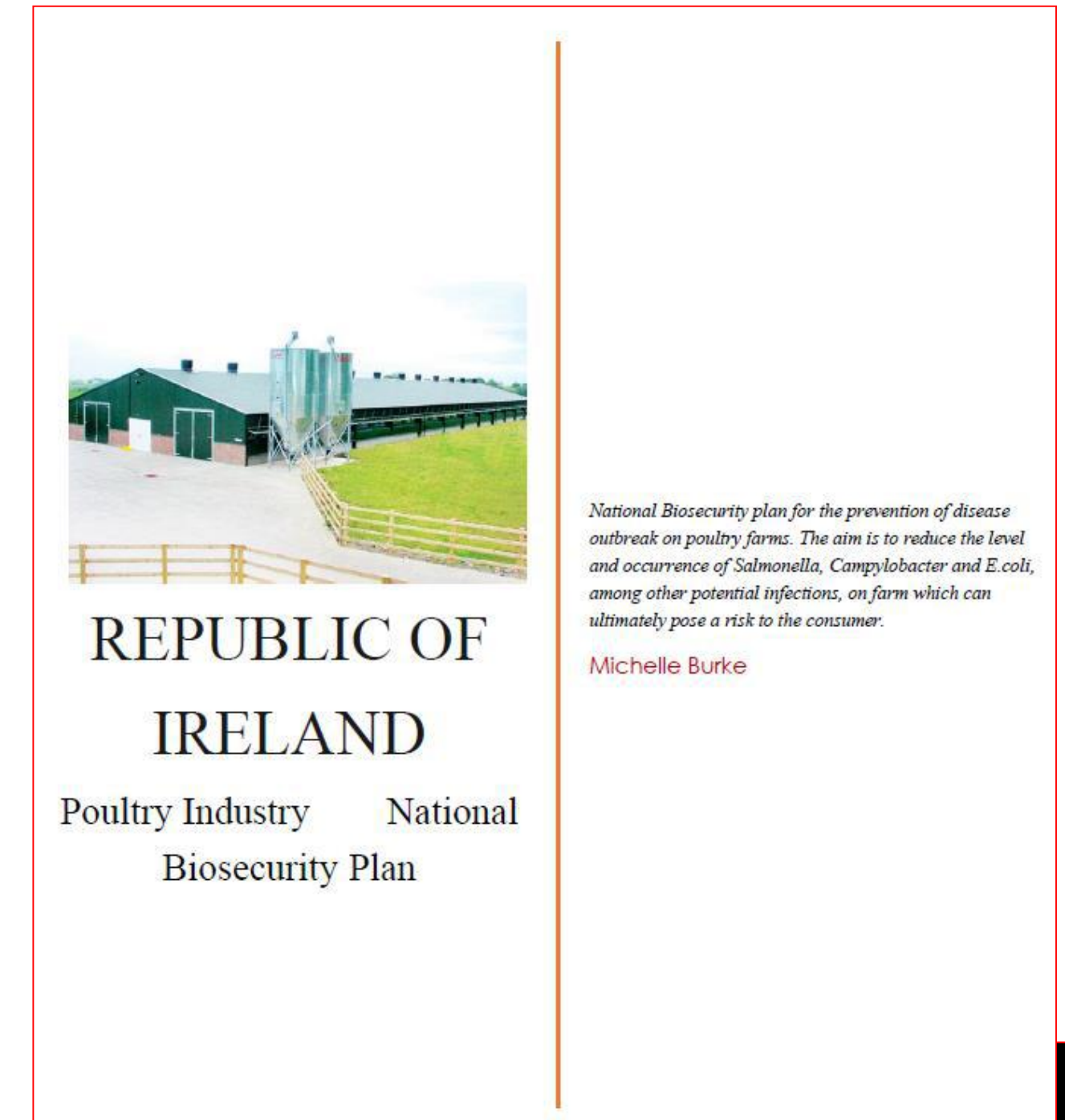
## Reducing prevalence in humans:

### -Reduce levels present on farm

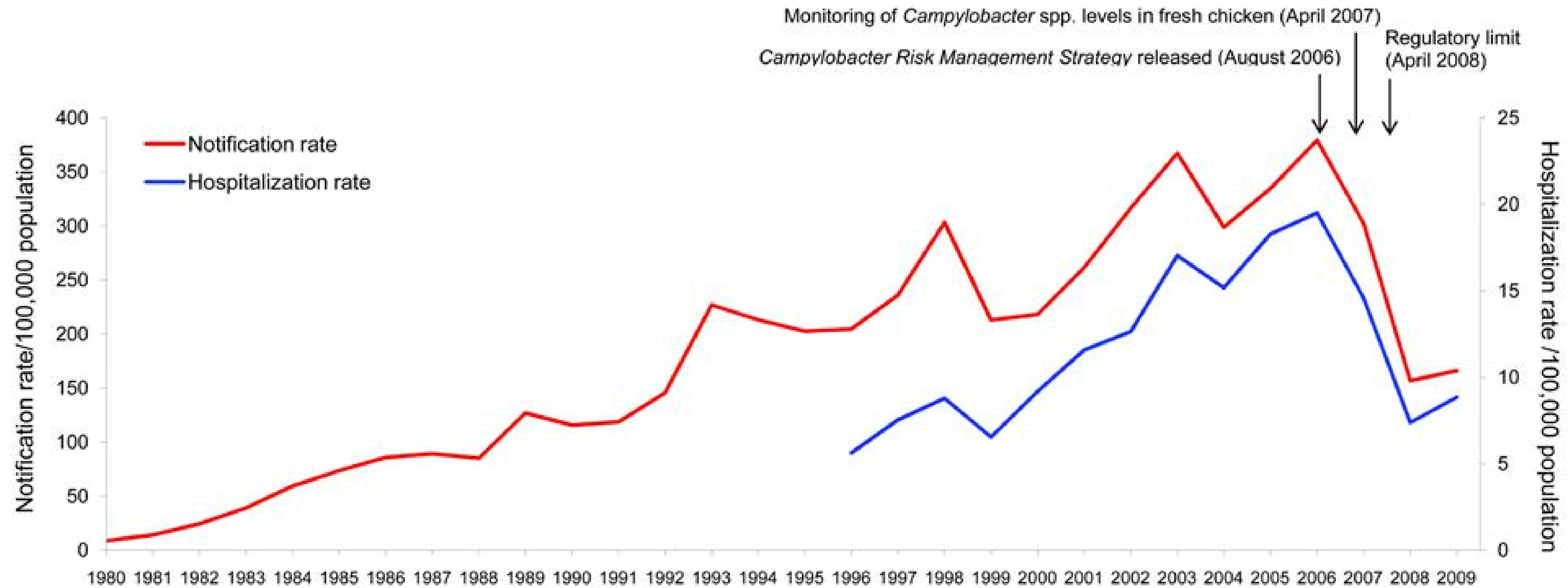
- *Internal biosecurity*
- *External biosecurity*

### -Reduce levels present in slaughterhouse

- *Farm level measures PLUS*
- *Optimise current hygienic practices*
- *Evaluate post-harvest interventions*



# Campylobacter stakeholders' group



**Successful Intervention strategies are possible:**

**New Zealand:** (University of Otago Wellington NZ Sears A 2011)

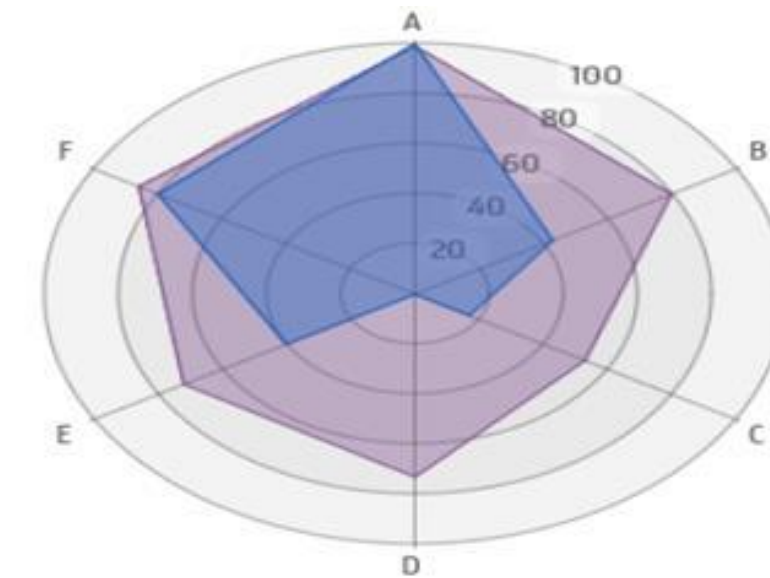
# Biosecurity – Biocheck.UGent



Developed by University of Ghent

Objective tool to measure biosecurity

- *Internal biosecurity*
- *External biosecurity*

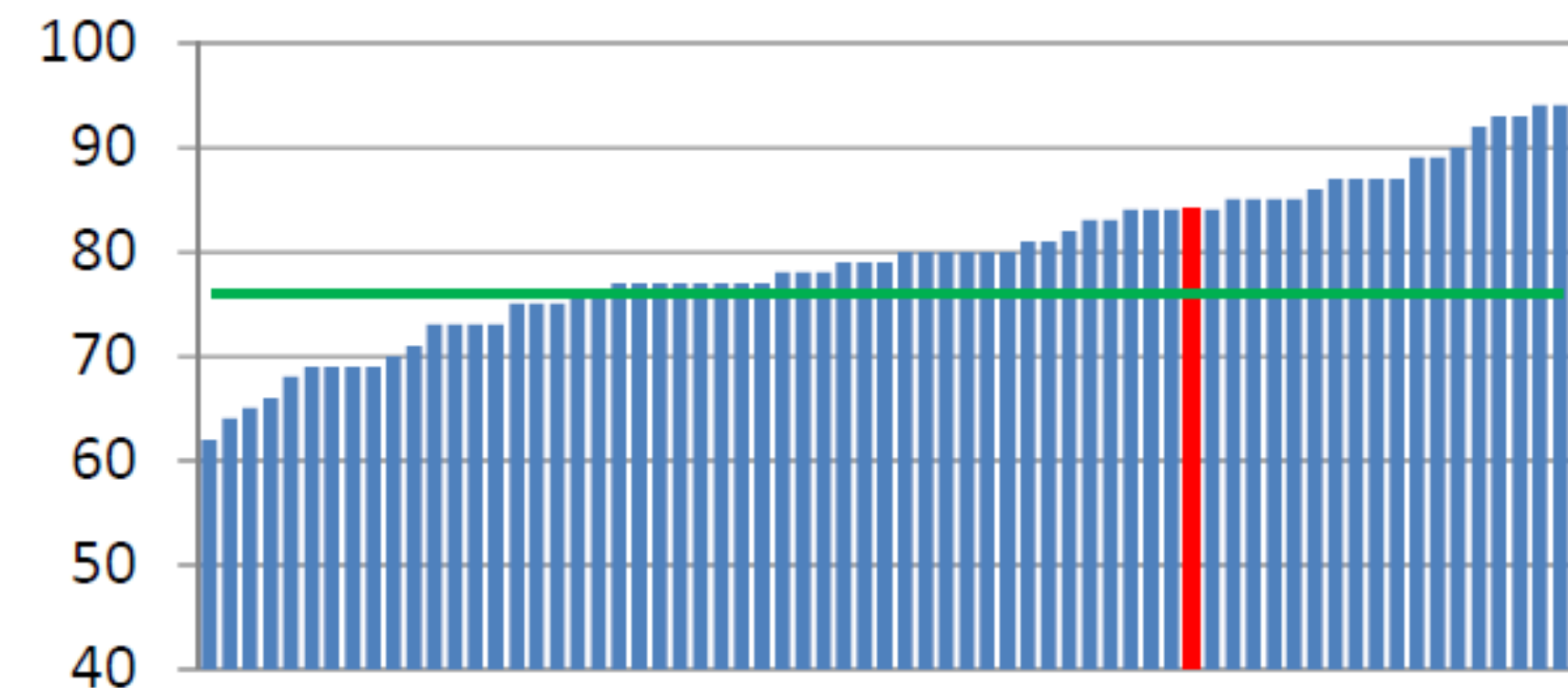


## Risk assessment

- *Identification of areas of weakness*
- *Optimise current hygienic practices*
- *Evaluate post-harvest interventions*

## Benchmarks and metrics

EXTERNAL BIOSECURITY



VALUE: 84  
BENCHMARK: 19th



# Biosecurity - TASAH



- Co-funded by the Irish government and the EU
- €1 million annual allocation to 2020
- Animal Health Ireland (AHI) awarded tender
- Strategically targets a number of core areas such as Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Johne's disease (JD), Somatic Cell Count (SCC) and significant animal health issues in the pig and poultry sector.



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## 2. Exotic disease risk (AI, ND)



# Poultry disease management



## Controls Plans

*Measure and reduce prevalence in breeding chickens, laying hens, broilers, fattening and laying turkey flocks infected with various types of Salmonella.*

## Poultry Health Programme

*Exports  
Salmonella and Mycoplasma  
(specific strains).*

## Contingency Plans

*Avian Influenza*

*Newcastle Disease*

*Other Notifiable Diseases*

# Controlling the risk of AI



## Contingency / operational planning

- Safeguarding poultry welfare
  - *CO2 contract for whole-house gassing*
  - *Trained DAFM gassing teams*
- Safeguarding human health
  - *Contract with Occupational Health consultant*
  - *Protocols with HSE, HPSC & NPWS*
  - *Regional & RVO PPE trainers*
  - *Occupational health workshops*
  - *Annual vaccination clinics in RVOs*



# Controlling the risk of AI



- Monitoring international picture,
- Close liaison with EU neighbours (DEFRA, DAERA)
- Active and passive surveillance
- Early warning system for AI in wild birds –  
*NPWS, Birdwatch Ireland, NARGC*
- Public/stakeholder awareness
- Ensuring registration database is updated, accurate

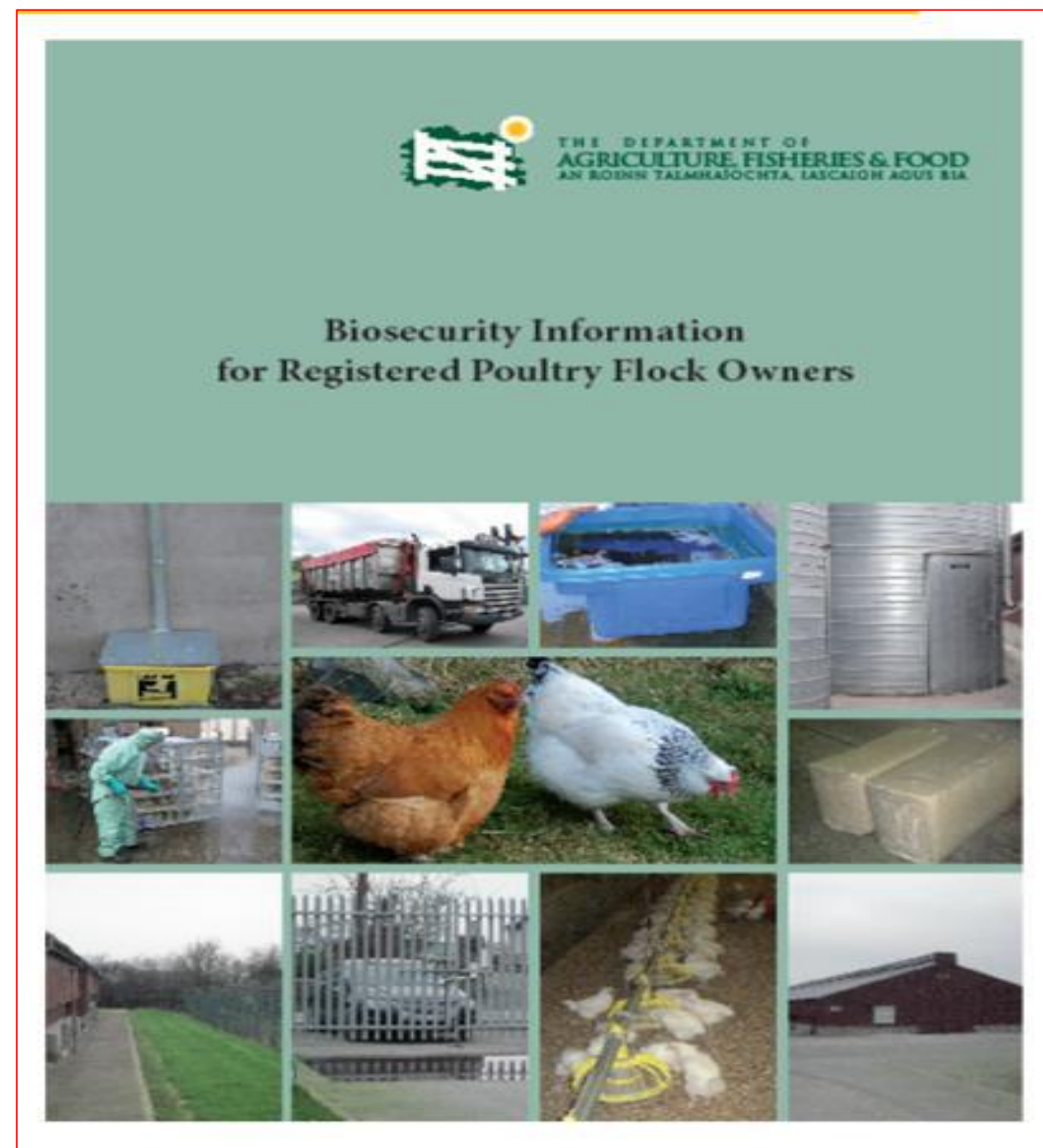


# Controlling the risk of AI



<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/biosecurity/>

[https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian\\_influenza/biosecurityadvice/](https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/biosecurityadvice/)



## BACKYARD POULTRY

### AVIAN INFLUENZA BIOSECURITY ADVICE

**Q. Why is good biosecurity important?**  
To protect your poultry from avian influenza you need to prevent your birds from coming into contact with potentially infected wild birds, their faeces and other secretions. Good biosecurity measures will reduce the risk of introduction of avian influenza.  
Disease control in small backyard flocks across the country is not only important to those small flocks, but also to protect the high health status of the larger national flock.  
In the event of an outbreak of avian influenza in a backyard flock, potentially damaging disease movement restrictions will apply for all poultry in the surrounding area, and the ability of commercial companies to export poultry or poultry products may be affected.

**If you work on a commercial poultry farm, do not keep poultry at home, as you could spread disease from one flock to another.**

**Q. What are the most important biosecurity measures you can take to prevent avian influenza?**  
Comply with the Avian Influenza (Precautionary Confinement of Birds) Regulations 2016 by housing your birds and taking key biosecurity measures, including:

1. Prevent direct wild bird contact with poultry, e.g. use of netting
2. Prevent wild bird contact with poultry feed and bedding
3. Provide potable drinking water (not water that could have been contaminated by wild birds e.g. not lake or pond water)
4. Use designated clothing and footwear for attending and looking after your birds
5. Wash and disinfect your hands before and after looking after your birds
6. Keep different poultry species separated (in particular ducks and geese should be separated from other poultry species)
7. Prevent direct contact of poultry with droppings from flying wild birds e.g. cover housing using canvas or tarpaulin
8. Keep the environment clean and unattractive to wild birds, e.g. keep grass cut, use scarecrows
9. Prevent rodents, pets and unnecessary personnel from having contact with poultry
10. Check your birds regularly for signs of illness
11. Only buy birds from a known reputable source - isolate any newly introduced poultry for 2 weeks if possible, and attend to your own birds before the new birds
12. Clean and disinfect any equipment before use
13. Provide only commercial feed (it is illegal to feed farmed animal species with food waste) and clean up any food spills

[Avian Influenza \(Precautionary Confinement of Birds\) Regulations 2016](#)  
Further information on avian influenza can be found at:  
[http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian\\_influenza/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/)



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## 3. Poultry registration database



# Poultry registration



**Anyone who keeps poultry, even a small flock as a hobby, must register with the Department.**

# Poultry registration – how?



- Register online at <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/poultry/>
- Contact local RVO and request a PR1 form by email or post

# Poultry registration – why?



- National contingency plans require an accurate picture of the location of poultry flocks in Ireland
- Assist DAFM in its efforts to prevent and control diseases that affects poultry, such as Avian Influenza
- Enable DAFM to contact keepers of poultry with important information to keep their flock, and other flocks in Ireland, safe in the case of a disease outbreak

# Poultry database update



- DAFM needs to ensure its database of flock owners is up to date and accurate
- DAFM will issue all flock owners with an update form by post in the coming weeks
- All flock owners are urged to **update** information on their poultry and their contact details.



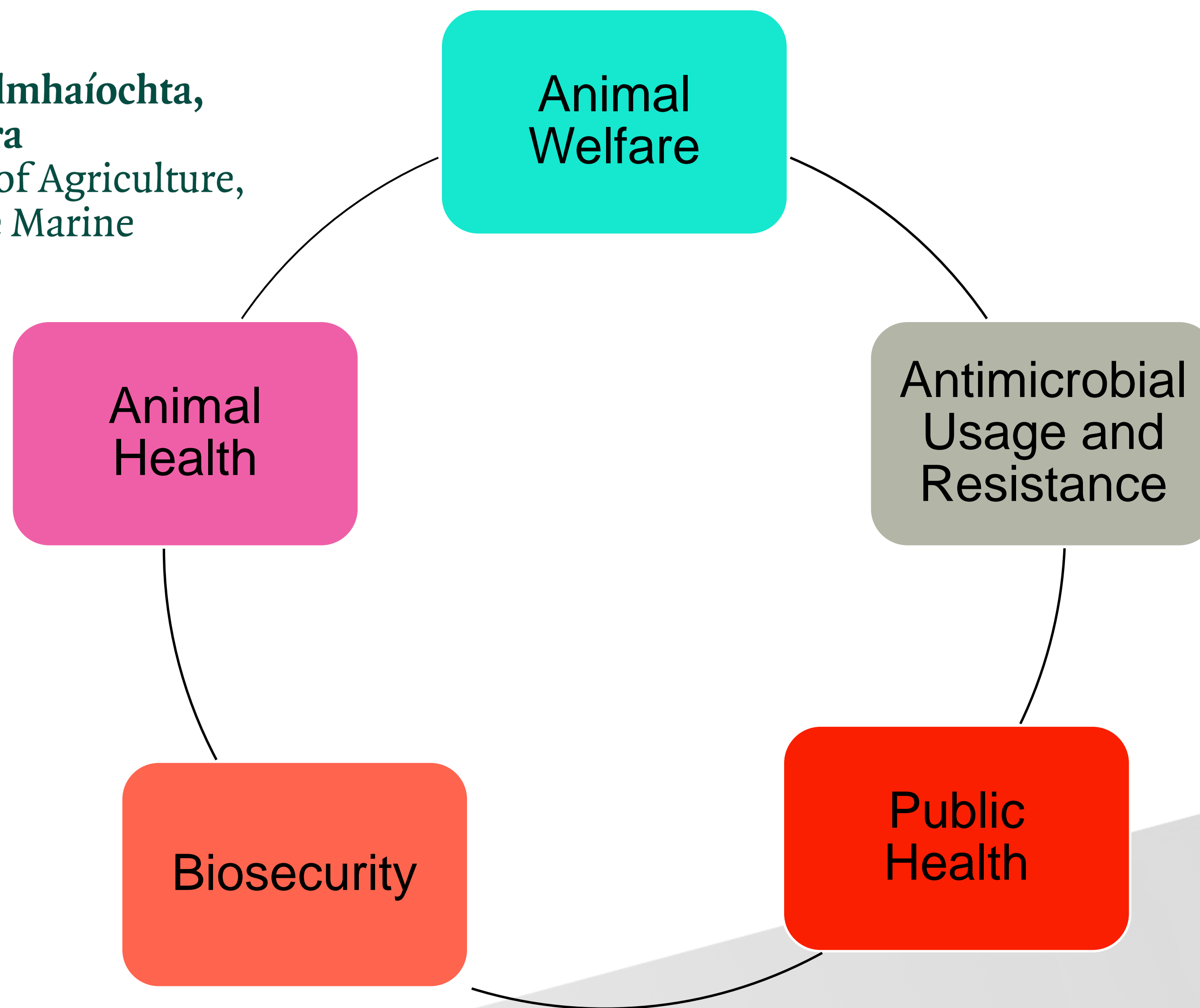
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## 4. DAFM Coordination





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# DAFM Coordination



- 2018 internal review, chaired by Lorna Meaney SVI
- Alignment of efforts to improve service delivery
- Clear identification of tasks, responsibilities
- Report to be finalised in coming weeks

# DAFM Coordination



- Review of disease controls
  - *Salmonella, Poultry Health Programme*
  - *Policy review of notifiable diseases*
- Using DAFM IT infrastructure to capture (and over time share) poultry health information
- Update of registrations urgently required