Airborne transmission of Avian Influenza between poultry farms:

"what do we know?" "what can we do?"







Mattias Delpont PhD, dipl. ECPVS SIPA VIII SimposÍo Scientifico, Forlì, 24th November 2023



Allegory of air, Jan Van Kessel, 1661

Foreword(s)

How ventilation can influence biosecurity and which solutions could be implemented?

Avian Influenza in high-density regions



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Foreword(s)







Questions and keys aspects of the presentation

HPAI needs vehicles for airborne transmission



What are these vehicles?



Which biosecurity practices for each step?

Introduction

Southwest France, May 2023





Introduction

Southwest France, May 2023





Introduction

Southwest France, May 2023





Introduction : Farm density and AI, a long story

> Vet Res. 2023 Jul 10;54(1):56. doi: 10.1186/s13567-023-01183-9

Impact of palmiped farm density on the resilience of the poultry sector to highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 in France



Billy Bauzile 1, Benoit Dura > Avian Dis. 2016 Jun;60(2):460-6. doi: 10.1637/11351-121715-Reg.

Claire Guinat¹, Alessio An

Factors Associated with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N2 Infection on Table-Egg Layer Farms in the Midwestern United States, 2015



Lindsey Garber 1, Kathe Bjork 1, k > Transbound Emerg Dis. 2018 Oct;65(5):1329-1338. doi: 10.1111/tbed.12882. Epub 2018 Apr 19.

Risk factors associated with highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N8 outbreaks on broiler duck



Amy Delgado ¹, Sara Ahola ¹, Bri

farms in South Korea

> Zoonoses Public Health. 2007;54(9-10):337-43. doi: 10.1111/j.1863-2378.2007.01074.x.

W-H Kim ¹, J-U An ¹, J Kim ¹, O-K Moon ², S

^S Risk factors for the introduction of avian influenza virus into commercial layer chicken farms during the outbreaks caused by a low-pathogenic H5N2 virus in Japan in 2005



> Avian Dis. 2017 Jun;61(2):198-204. doi: 10.1637/11543-112816-Reg.1.

A Nishiguchi ¹, S Kobayashi, T Yamamoto, Y Ouc



Epidemiologic Investigation of Highly Pathogenic H5N2 Avian Influenza Among Upper Midwest U.S. Turkey Farms, 2015

école nationale vétérinaire toulouse S J Wells ¹ ², M M Kromm ³, E T VanBeusekom ³, E J Sorley ⁴, M E Sundaram ⁴, K VanderWaal ², J W J Bowers ³, P A Papinaho ³, M T Osterholm ⁴ ⁵, J Bender ¹ ²

Introduction : Farm density and HPAI, a long story





farms in South Korea

control zone"

"farm location in an existing

"Presence of any poultry farms located within 500 m of the farm" (OR = 6.30)"

"Direct distance to the nearest case farm' (0-500 m, OR = 8.6)"





"proximity to other turkey operations" (OR = 46.14)"



Introduction : Farm density and HPAI, a long story

the poultry sector to highly pathogenic avian



influenza subtype H5N8 or farms in South Korea



What makes closeness a cause of infection? People? Shared equipment? Insects?

Rodents? Wild birds? Air?









What is in the air? Words and definitions

- Particulate Matter (PM) = Aerosols = atmospheric aerosol particles. Mixture of microscopic liquid and solid particles suspended in the air
- **Bioaerosol** = viable and non-viable biological particles suspended in the air
- **Droplet** (\geq 5 µm OR \geq 100 µm, depending on authors...)
- **Respiratory droplet** = droplet derived from the respiratory tract
- Droplet nuclei = microscopic aerosol particles consisting in the residual solid cores of evaporated respiratory particles
- **Dust** = fine particles of solid matter (settled or airborne); they sediment under gravity force



What is in the air? Words and definitions

• Respirable and non-respirable particles

- > Inhalable \leq 100 µm
- > Thoracic \leq 10 µm
- > Respirable ≤ 5 µm
- PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀
 - > PM₁₀ ≤ 10 µm
 - > PM_{2.5} ≤ 2.5 µm





What is in the air? **Particle types and origins**







Animal to animal airborne transmission "What do we know?"

Dustborne infection by HPAI

Spekreise et al, 2012

- Laboratory conditions
- Chickens in first room inoculated with H5N1
- aerosol + dust sampling



- ✓ Airborne transmission of AI
- ✓ Airborne and dustborne infectious AIV



> J Infect Dis. 2009 Mar 15;199(6):858-65. doi: 10.1086/597073.

Transmission of influenza virus via aerosols and fomites in the guinea pig model

Samira Mubareka ¹, Anice C Lowen, John Steel, Allan L Coates, Adolfo García-Sastre, Peter Palese

✓ Different strains of AIV =
different capacity to infect via aerosol transmission







- Infectious Laryngotracheitis (USA)
- Case farms were 9.9 more likely located within the wind vector of a clinical flock during infectious period
- House ventilation system and house orientation were not retained



Johnson et al, 2005



- HPAI, France, 2017
- Peak of cases after a (major) storm
- Outbreak progression and particle dispersion (modeled) were in <u>opposite directions</u>...







- HPAI, USA, 2022 (springsummer)
- Modelling PM_{2.5} poultry litter dust particles, <u>long distance</u>







- HPAI, The Netherlands, 2003
- 24% of the transmissions over distances up to 25 km.





- HPAI, The Netherlands, 2003
- Wind data + genetic data
- Contribution of possible windmediated mechanism on total of cases = 18%

Blue arrows: transmission that coincide with wind direction

Ypma et al, 2013

10 km

111



Documenting farm to farm transmission

- Wrap-up!
 - > Airborne farm infection **possible**
 - > Airborne farm infection **not always easy to prove**
 - > Airborne farm infection more efficient with wind and over short distances
 - > Variable contribution of airborne farms infections during epidemics







Emission of aerosols and pathogens "What do we know?" TABLE 2. Concentrations of airborne microorganisms and dust in livestock production systems

Animal	Bacteria ^[a] log CFU m ⁻³	Fungi ^{la]} log CFU m ⁻³	Inhalable Dust ^[b] mg m ⁻³	Respirable Dust ^[b] mg m ⁻³	${}^{PM_{10}^{[c]}}_{mg\ m^{-3}}$	PM _{2.5} ^[c] mg m ⁻³
Broiler	6.4	4–5	3.8–10.4	0.42–1.14	0.9–2.4	0.04-0.09
Layer	4–5	3–4	1.0–8.8	0.03–1.26	5.9–6.1	0.25-0.29
Pig	5.1	3.7	0.0-5.1	0.09-0.46	0.2-2.0	0.01-0.07
Cattle	4.3	3.8	0.1-1.2	0.03-0.17		0.01

^[a]Data from Seedorf et al. (1998). ^[b]Data from Taikai et al.(1998). ^[c]Data from Lai et al. (2010).

Zhao et al, 2014





Dust composition

- Broiler chicken dust (Ahaduzzaman et al, 2021)
 - > 60% **faeces** at D7
 - > 95% faeces at D35
 - > **Feathers** around 10%





PM emission from poultry houses

- High PM for high hen activity
- High PM for low temperatures
- High PM for low ventilation rate



Zhao et al, 2015



Many factors for PM/dust production



Emissions from outside the poultry barn



Aerosolization by the wind

- Any particle on the floor
- Internal biosecurity



Manure

- Fecal → pathogens ++
- Uncovered storage
- Spreading





Amount of virus depends on species, viral strain, etc.



- Fecal surface contamination
- Epithelium of growing feathers!

- Main route
- Litter/faeces management



IAV: feathers and excretion

Gaide, Filaire et al, 2023

HPAI is produced and emitted from <u>feathers</u>, after desquamation (+++ in ducks) and these (still infectious) particles become <u>airborne</u>

Keratin: CBP



NP 🔆







Aerosols



IAV: infectivity in dust and aerosols







Outbreak farms : HPAI infectivity in dust and aerosols particles (>1µm)

Infectivity

Table 2. Viral isolation says on chicken embryonated eggs performed on 5 of the 63 poultry houses in a study to detect highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5N8) virus on poultry farms, France, December 2020–April 2021*

	House 11		Hous	House 26		House 29		House 30		House 34	
Sample type†	Ct	VI	Ct	VI	Ct	VI	Ct	VI	Ct	VI	
Tracheal swab	25	+	20.7	+	21.9) +	18.9	+	20	+	
Dust wipe, feeders	25.8	_	25.1	-	27.4	4 +	29.5	+	24.2	+	
Oust wipe, walls	27.5	+	25.5	-	30.1	+	28.3	+	23	+	
Coriolis	32	-	33.6	-	27.8	3 –	25.8	+	26.9	+	
NIOSH BC251								-			
Fraction 1	34	-	33.6	-	27.8	3 –	25.8	+	23.7	+	
Fraction 2	-	ND	36	-	32.4	4 –	33.1	-	18.6	+	
Fraction 3	-	ND	. – .	ND	. 36.3	3	–	. ND	–	ND	

*Ct, cycle threshold; ND, not done; VI, virus isolation; +, positive; –, negative.

†Each farm or building was sampled by using 4 pools of 5 tracheal swab samples, 2 wipe samples (1 from feeders, 1 from walls), and on 19 farms, 1 air sample from each of the 2 aerosol collection devices, the Coriolis Compact (Bertin Instruments, https://www.bertin-instruments.com) and the NIOSH BC 251, developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (https://www.cdc.gov/niosh). NIOSH BC 251 sampling device has 3 fractions for different particle sizes; fraction 1 for >4 μm, fraction 2 for 1–4 μm, and fraction 3 for <1 μm.

Feather in dust, but also ...





Proximity to roads for airborne transmission

...






Stability of PM

Physical decay:

Gravitational sedimentation

Impaction

Electrostatic precipitation

- > Dominant mechanism depends on particle size (Zhao et al, 2014)
- Lowest deposition rate between 0.1 and 1 µm (Lai, 2002)
- > Air speed increase \rightarrow deposition of particles 0.5 10 µm (Thatcher et al, 2002)

Wet aerosols:

- Big particles → settle very quickly
- Small particles → quick evaporation and further dispersion

Dry aerosols (feces, litter)

- $_{\circ}$ $\,$ Further spread than wet sources
- Further spread when small



Stability of airborne microorganisms

Biological decay:

- > UV-C (100-280 nm) is the more germicidal, specifically 250-270 nm
 - Absorbed by genetic material,
 - Pyrimidine \rightarrow inhibits replication and function.
 - RNA more resistant.
- > **Oxydation:** Viruses are less sensitive
- > $O_3 \rightarrow$ Damages viral nucleic acids + alters polypeptide chain of viral protein coat
- > Humidity decrease \rightarrow inactivation of IAV (SedImaier et al, 2009)
- > **Dust / organic matter** \rightarrow protect microorganisms (exposition, fluctuations):



Dungan, 2010

Deposition or airborne microorganisms

Meteorological factors

- > Wind velocity
 - $_{\circ}$ High wind-speed / shorter distances \rightarrow less time to become inactivated

Dungan, 2010

- > **Relative humidity** : affects settling velocity (via density and diameter)
- > Temperature
- > **Precipitation** \rightarrow Wash-out by rain drops
- > $PM \ge 5 \mu m$: gravitationnal settling and impaction
- > $PM \ge 25 \ \mu m$: removal by raindrops



IAV airborne stability

Review > J Infect. 2008 Nov;57(5):361-73. doi: 10.1016/j.jinf.2008.08.013. Epub 2008 Oct 9.

Inactivation of influenza A viruses in the environment and modes of transmission: a critical review

Thomas P Weber ¹, Nikolaos I Stilianakis

Airborne inactivation

- Low RH & low T°
- High RH & medium T°
- •

...

Not always straighforward

Table 2. Estimated daily inactivation rates of influenza A viruses in aerosols

RH %	Temperature, °C	Inactivation rate (day ⁻¹)
50		96-312
70		62-166
20		≈20
80–90		≈400
23–25	7.0–8.0	0.34
51	7.0-8.0	1.25
82	7.0–8.0	3.6
20–22	20.5–24.0	1.22
50–51	20.5-24.0	13.9
81	20.5-24.0	19
20	32.0	4.1
49–50	32.0	17.3
81	32.0	60.7
50, 65, 80	21-24	16.85
20, 35	21-24	1.58–2.05



> Can J Comp Med. 1972 Jan;36(1):9-11.

Influenza A of human, swine, equine and avian origin: comparison of survival in aerosol form

C A Mitchell, L F Guerin



Strains of avian/equine origin → more resistant to decay



Outbreak samples

AIV identification in/around outbreaks in aerosols

ref	Virus	species	Airborne - Indoors – infectious	Airborne – indoors - vRNA	Airborne - Outside - Infectious	Airborne - Outside - vRNA
James, 2023	H5N1 2.3.4.4b (UK)		+	+	≤1m (1/4)	≤10m (3/4)
James, 2023	H5N1 2.3.4.4b (UK)	and the second s	+	+	(0/3)	≤1m (1/3)
James, 2023	H5N1 2.3.4.4b (UK)		-	+	(0/3)	(0/3)
Scoizec, 2018	H5N8 2.3.4.4 (FR)			+	Not tested	≤5m (4/4) [50-110](3/5)
Torremorell, 2016	H5N2 2.3.4.4 (USA)		+	+	≤70m (larger than 2.1 µm)	≤150m
Jonges, 2015	LPAI (NL)			+	-	≤60m
Li, 2016	HN9 (CN)		+	+	-	≤1,500m

AIV identification in/around outbreaks in dust

ref	Virus	species	Dust - Indoors – infectious	Dust – indoors - vRNA	Dust -Outside distance - Infectious	Dust - Outside distance - vRNA
James, 2023 (UK)	H5N1 2.3.4.4b		+	+	Outside vent	Outside vent (feathers 10m)
James, 2023 (UK)	H5N1 2.3.4.4b		-	+	-	Outside vent(feathers 50m)
James, 2023 (UK)	H5N1 2.3.4.4b		-	-	-	Outside vent
Torremorel, 2016	H5N2 2.3.4.4		-	+	-	≤1000m



The role of flies in the transmission of HPAI

Group^A

2

3

1 DPI

0

0

0

0

1

0

Experimental infection

Wanaratana et al, 2013

- HPAI H5N1
- Flies: consumption of infected food
- Chickens: consumption of flies

Successfull infection with infected flies

Table 1. MDT and mortality of chickens inoculated with the homogenate of HPAI-H5N1 virus contaminated houseflies (n = 10).

Number of chicken deaths each day

0

3

0

0

2

2 DPI 3 DPI 4 DPI 5 DPI 6 DPI 7 DPI MDT

0	0	0	0 🖌	
2	1	1	4.3	
4	2	3	5.6	
			F	ed exposed
			f	lies

control





Outbreak samples

The role of flies in the transmission of HPAI

Sawabe et al, 2006

- H5N1, Japan, 2004
- 926 flies collected

vRNA detection and virus isolation up to 2.3 km











Kg-



Transport of aerosols : wrap-up!

- · Parameters to take into account
 - > **Particle** characteristics
 - Diameter
 - Humidity
 - Type of organic matter
 - > Special particles: live insects, feathers!
 - > **Temperature**, **humidity** and UV **radiation**
 - > Wind velocity
 - > **Distance** between farms







Arrival of bioaerosols and pathogens in farms



Article

Monitoring Wind-Borne Particle Matter Entering Poultry Farms via the Air-Inlet: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus and Other Pathogens Risk

Armin R. W. Elbers ^{1,*}⁽⁹⁾, José L. Gonzales ¹⁽⁹⁾, Miriam G. J. Koene ¹⁽⁰⁾, Evelien A. Germeraad ¹⁽⁰⁾, Renate W. Hakze-van der Honing ¹⁽⁰⁾, Marleen van der Most ¹, Henk Rodenboog ² and Francisca C. Velkers ³⁽⁰⁾

- Nets on air inlets
- ightarrow Collection of PM of variable origin and size
 - Mosquitoes, cobwebs
 - Seeds, leaf material
 - o Plastic
 - \circ Dry faeces
- \rightarrow Larger PM in stormy weather
- \rightarrow Some Campylobacter on PM, no HPAI



Arrival of bioaerosols and pathogens "in the poultry"

- Factors to take into account
 - Minimal infectious dose
 - Depends on the virus/strain
 - Depends on the **host**
 - **Duration** of exposition









Overview of biosecurity solutions

Production of PM inside the barn

Emissions of PM out of the barn

PM / pathogens emissions from outdoor

Entry of PM in the barns

Inactivation of airborne pathogens

anything else?









Biosecurity: **production of PM** inside the barn



- Dust reduction
 - > Oil (Canola, rapeseed) and water spraying? (Ogink et al, 2012)
 - > <u>Warning</u>: foot pad lesions! Corrosion of metal, slippery floor...
- Modulation of animal activity?
- Modulation of human activity?



Biosecurity: reduction of PM inside the barn

- Filters (see filter-types after)
- Ionization systems inside the barns

Mostafa & Buescher, 2011

Cambra-Lopez et al, 2009

Experimental set-up











 \rightarrow Associated with mechanical ventilation

Dry filters

• Air scrubbers

- > Designed for ammonia and odor reduction
- > Spray of water +/- acid

• Biofilters

- > Filter bed with microorganism attachment
- > Used in combination with scrubbers

Maintained efficacy in winter

Reduced efficacy in winter

Reduced efficacy in winter











With water sprays

On the field





Basic construction of the MagixX exhaust air washer



Source: BigDutchman





Source: BigDutchman



Biosecurity: PM / pathogens from outdoor activities

- Spreading practices
 - Inactivation of pathogens prior to spreading
 - Composting, lime, oxygenation
 - Storage of manure in open-air?
 - > Spreading technique!





http://www.lafranceagricole.fr/allier-economie-et-environnement-avec-un-batiment-ecolo--1,0,3385963877.html





 Swine, 80% of reduction of risk to be infected by PRRS (known aerosol transmission), using filters (estimated high-MERV, 14 to 16) (Alonso et al, 2013)





Illustration adapted from Guo et al, 2022

MERV grade

= filter efficacy (may be adapted)





- The electrostatic air filtration system
 - low-grade air filter + electrostatic particle ionization





Vegetative Environment Buffers / Windbreaks



Green et al, 2023

Characteristic	Number of case farms (percent)	Number of control farms (percent)
	(percent)	(percent)

0 (0.0)	6 (30.0)
-	
	0 (0.0)





Vegetative Environment Buffers / Windbreaks





Vegetative Environment Buffers / windbreaks

- Mechanisms
 - Less speed = more settling
 - Adsorption on leaves
- Little technical info
 - > Species, maintenance, design
- Multiple layers
- Not that expensive
 - > Social, agroforestry, environmental benefits
 - > Reduce winter heating costs, reduce summer cooling





Cleaning and disinfection of air inlets and outlets



Exhaust fans





Biosecurity



Pest control





Biosecurity

Distance to road? Protection from road? Trees/hedges?





Legal requirements

- Ministry of Health, DECREE 30 May 2023, Application methods of biosecurity measures in poultry farms. (23A03711) (GU General Series <u>n.151 of 06-30-2023)</u>
 - Attachment 1. 3.a) xi. ordinary poultry farms with a capacity greater than 250 animals located within high risk zones A and B adopt, where possible and in particular if placed at a distance less than 1000 meters from other farms of the same type, systems aimed at reducing dispersion into the environment of dust coming out of warehouses with extraction ventilation forced such as
 - **natural/artificial barriers** between two farms
 - o or **nebulizers** in correspondence with the fans extraction;







So is it worth investing in airborne infections prevention?

✓ It is hard to be sure of the <u>extent of airborne</u> <u>transmission</u> for HPAI

- Yet, it exists
- > "Even if it is negligible, we should not neglect it"
- Airborne infections are <u>perceived as important</u> by farmers
 - > 20/28 farmers think that "airborne spread is the most likely route of infection". Garber et al, 2016




So **is it worth** investing in airborne infections prevention?

Air cleaning devices = EXPENSIVE

- > Useful for PM reduction, as well as pathogen
- The level of efficacy (choice of technology, choice of filter) and the investment may be adapted
- > Reserved for high risk/ high value farms
- Classical cleaning and disinfection in and around the barn
 - Already part of biosecurity plans





So is it worth investing in airborne infections prevention?

- Other benefits when managing airborne transmission
 - > Reduction of smell
 - Social acceptability
 - > Wood production
 - Animal welfare
- Not doing something is <u>already a choice</u>
- Risk <u>reduction</u>, not necessarily 100%





So is it worth investing in airborne infections prevention?





Farm density and airborne transmission... ... can we reduce farm density ?

- Ministry of Health, DECREE 30 May 2023, Application methods of biosecurity measures in poultry farms. (23A03711) (GU General Series <u>n.151 of 06-30-2023)</u>
 - > Attachment 1. 5.
 - Zones A and B. For opening new farms and conversions, Min. distance 1500 m from other poultry farms
 - 1000 m, when out of zones A and B



Farm density and airborne transmission... ... can we reduce farm density ?

> Vet Res. 2023 Jul 10;54(1):56. doi: 10.1186/s13567-023-01183-9.

Impact of palmiped farm density on the resilience of the poultry sector to highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 in France

Billy Bauzile ¹, Benoit Durand ², Sébastien Lambert ¹, Séverine Rautureau ³, Lisa Fourtune ¹, Claire Guinat ¹, Alessio Andronico ⁴, Simon Cauchemez ⁴, Mathilde C Paul ¹, Timothée Vergne ⁵



action!

"Plan Adour", an industrydriven plan, to ban restocking in the most atrisk zones between 15.12.22 and 15.01.22





Source: Maïsdour

