

# Biosecurity assessments for broiler and layers units: Irish results

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Let's Talk about Poultry – webinar  
25<sup>th</sup> August 2021



# Public Private Partnerships

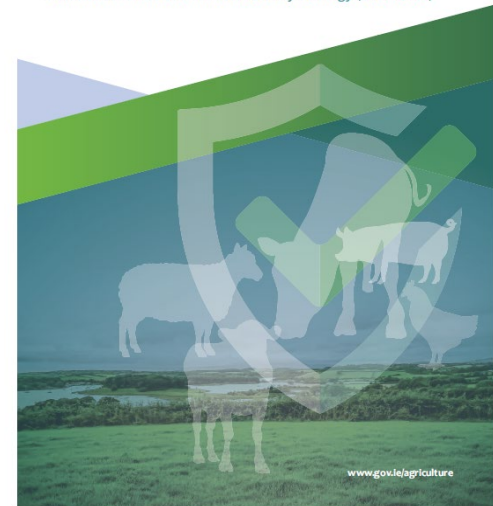
Public-private partnership is a joint approach in which the public and private sectors agree responsibilities and share resources and risks to achieve common objectives that deliver benefits in a sustainable manner.



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

## Keeping Animals Safe from Disease

A National Farmed Animal Biosecurity Strategy (2021-2024)



## BENEFITS

1. Stronger national ECONOMY
2. Greater TRUST in government and private partners
3. Reduced BUSINESS risk and increased opportunities
4. Improved public HEALTH
5. Addressing SOCIETAL issues

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# TASAH funded activity (RDP funding)

One assessment funded per year

Delivered by trained PVPs

# Biocheck

Free online application: [www.biocheck.ugent.be](http://www.biocheck.ugent.be)



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BIOCHECK.UGent, prevention is better than cure!

Welkom!

Biocheck.UGent is a risk-based scoring system to evaluate the quality of your on-farm biosecurity in a scientific and independent way.

Fill in the online [questionnaire](#) for free and receive valuable feedback about the biosecurity level of your farm. You get a summarizing and personal report with detailed results. These findings can help you to choose your own suitable biosecurity pathway.

Don't hesitate and get started to lift your farm to a higher biosecurity level!

[Start the Biocheck.UGent!](#)

[How to use Biocheck.UGent?](#)



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# Biocheck

- No protocol suitable for every herd
- A balance between biosecurity and management
- Tool?

→ **scoring system**

# Biocheck

= Risk Based Biosecurity Scoring System

## **Quantification** of biosecurity status

- Comparing scores between different herds
- Comparing scores between different countries
- Comparing scores in time
- Taking different risks into account

# Biocheck

## Weighted scores

- Based on scientific research
- Risk for transmission: direct vs. indirect contact
- Weight factor for each subcategory and each question

# Biosecurity assessment



79 questions for broilers  
120 questions for the layers

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# Biosecurity assessment



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## Poultry TASAH Biocheck PVP Summary Report

Subcategory	Your score	Country average	World average
External biosecurity			
A. Purchase of one-day-old chicks	N/A	79 %	45 %
B. Purchase of laying hens	85 %	87 %	69 %
C. Depopulation and transport of hens	86 %	65 %	52 %
D. Transport of eggs	52 %	37 %	39 %
E. Feed and water	73 %	68 %	47 %

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# Summary Report



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## Poultry TASAH Biocheck PVP Summary Report

# 3 recommendations provided

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# *Who has been trained?*



PROGRAMMES ▾

TRAINING ▾

NEWS & EVENTS ▾

ABOUT ▾



<https://animalhealthireland.ie/training/poultry-training/>



# What is biosecurity?

The combination of all measures taken to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of diseases on herd, region, country,... level



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# What is biosecurity?

Complex!

No one size fits all!





# Why is biosecurity important?

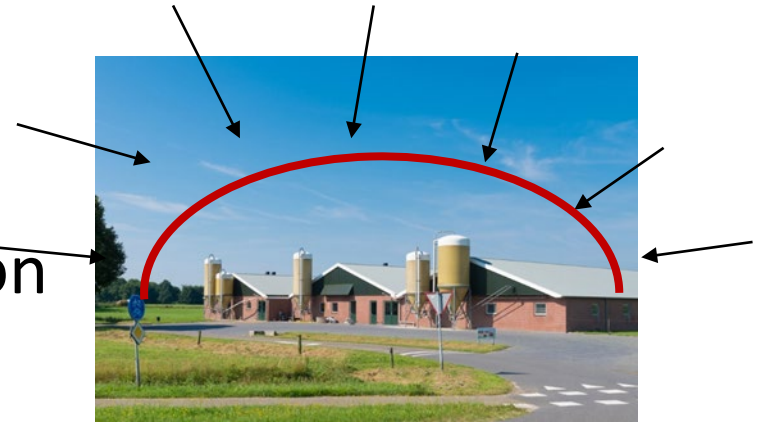
A better biosecurity may lead to:

- Higher health status
- Improved production results
  - Growth
  - Feed conversion
  - Uniformity
- Less antimicrobial use
- Economical benefits

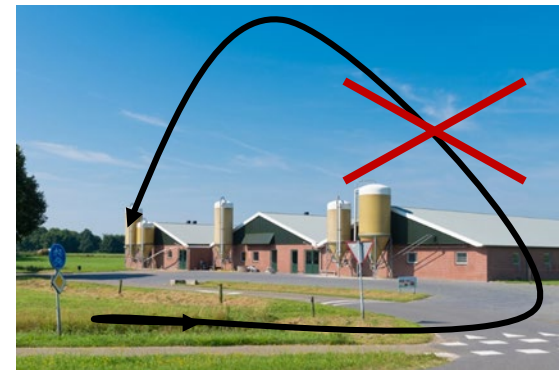
# What is biosecurity?

Usually divided into:

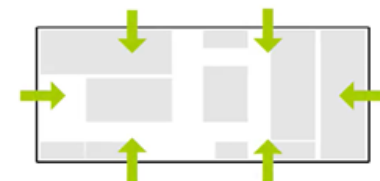
- External  
Stop/reduce introduction



- Internal  
Stop/reduce spread



# External biosecurity



Broilers	Layers
Purchase of one day old chicks	Purchase of one day old chicks
<b>Depopulation of broilers</b>	<u>Purchase of layers</u>
Feed & water supply	Depopulation of hens
Removal of manure and dead animals	<u>Transport of the eggs</u>
<b>Entrance of personnel and visitors</b>	<b>Feed &amp; water supply</b>
Supply of material	Removal of manure and dead animals
<b>Infrastructure and biological vectors</b>	<b>Entrance of personnel and visitors</b>
Location of the farm	Supply of material
	<b>Infrastructure and biological vectors</b>
	Location of the farm

# Internal biosecurity



Broilers	Layers
Disease management	Disease management
<b>Cleaning and disinfection</b>	<b>Cleaning and disinfection</b>
Materials and measures between houses	Materials and measures between houses
	<u>Egg Management</u>



# Biosecurity is a joint venture ....

...often threatened by lack of time

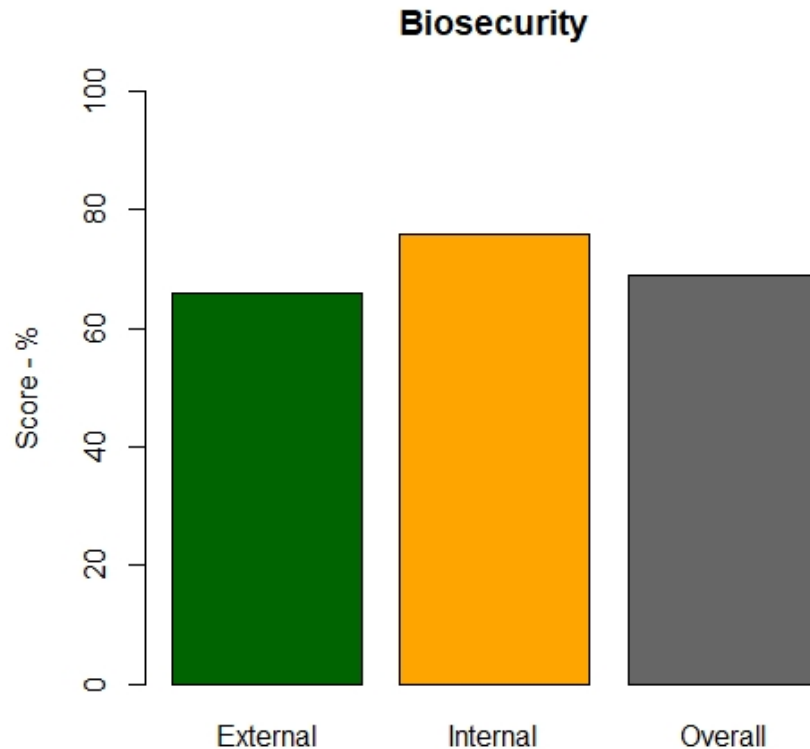




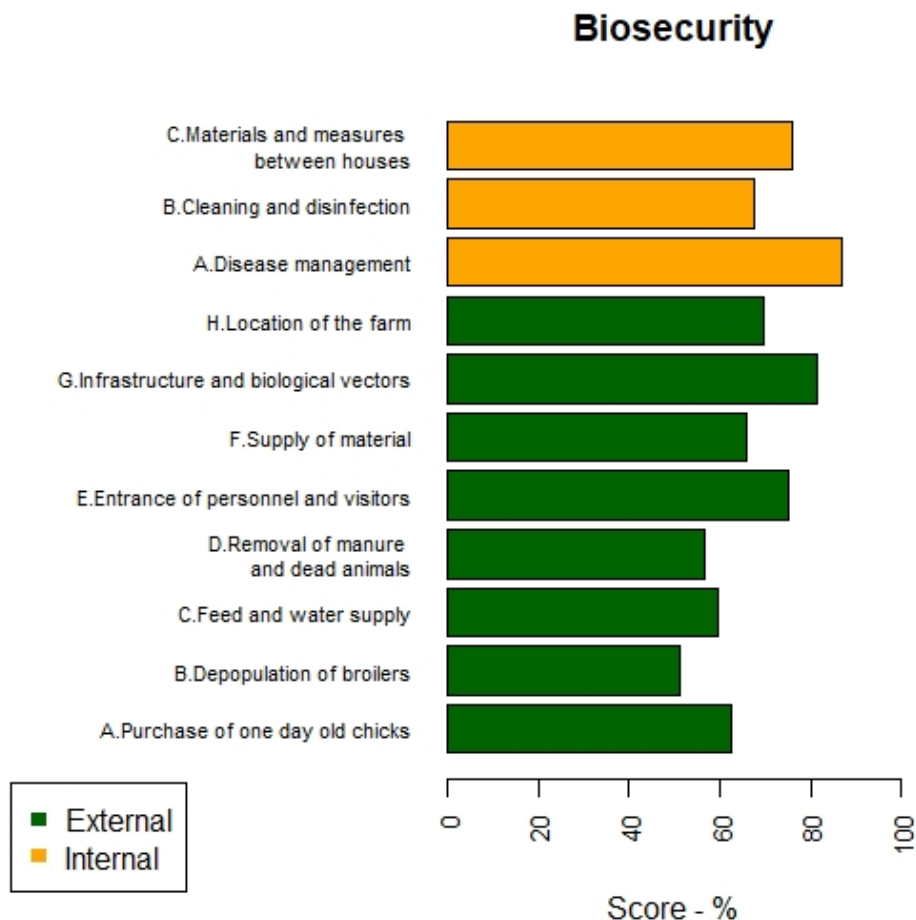
# Results

- October 2019 to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021
- 337 surveys from 214 broilers farms
- 82 surveys from 68 layer farms

# ***Broilers – national data***



# ***Broilers – results per section***



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# External biosecurity

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# Depopulation of broilers

Is the transport vehicle taking the poultry to the slaughterhouses/ traders/ individuals always empty on arrival at the farm?

	Freq	%
Always	23	21.3
Sometimes	72	66.7
Never	13	12.0



# Depopulation of broilers

Are individuals and traders allowed to enter the stables where direct contact is possible with the animals?

	Freq	%
Always	66	31.0
Sometimes	114	53.5
Never	33	15.5

# Feed and Water Supply

Is the farm site divided into a clean and dirty area?

	Freq	%
No	123	57.7
Yes	90	42.3

# Supply of material

Are specific preventive measures taken for material supply (e.g. UV-disinfection unit, alcohol disinfection)?

	Freq	%
No	142	66.7
Yes	71	33.3

# Internal biosecurity

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# Cleaning and disinfection

Do vehicles enter the farm after passing through disinfection baths?

	Freq	%
No	201	94.4
Yes	12	5.6

Is there a FARM-hygiene lock present?

	Freq	%
No	166	77.9
Yes	47	22.1

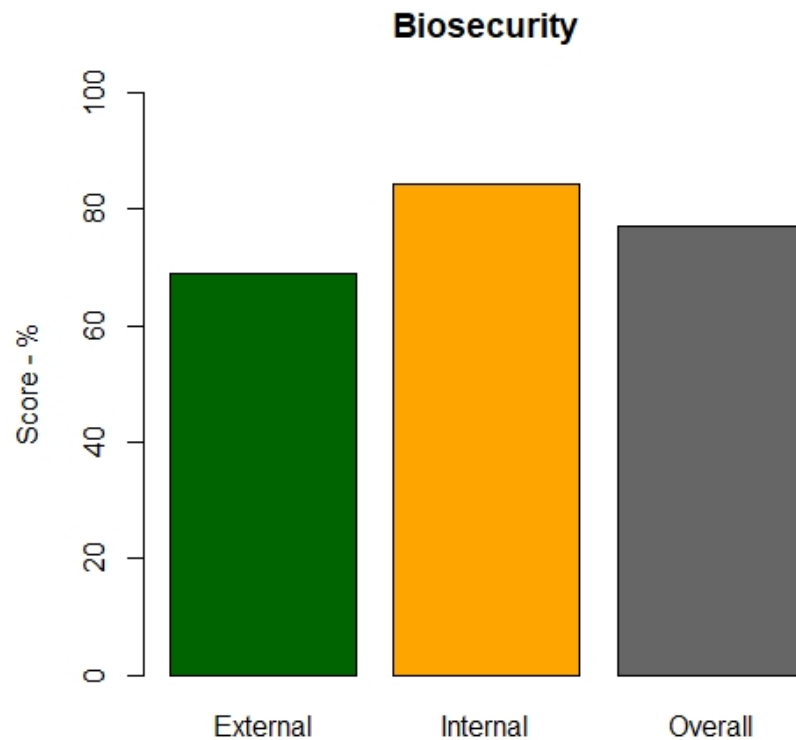


# Materials and measures between compartments

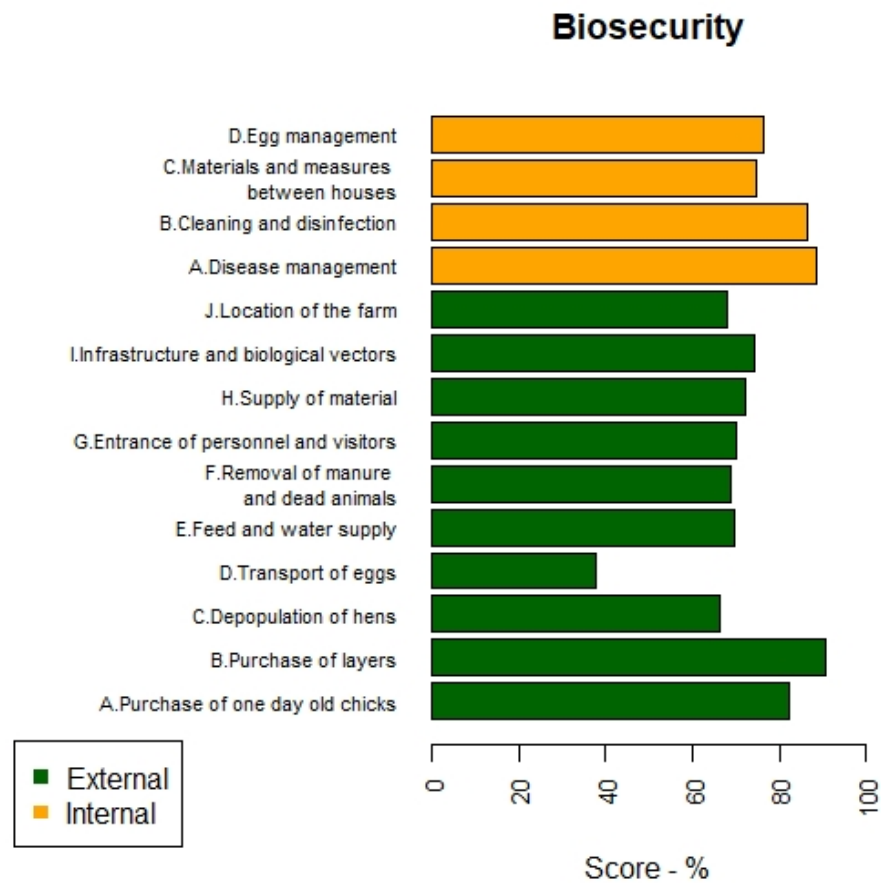
Is house specific clothing (incl. boots) available?

	Freq	%
No	68	43.9
Yes	87	56.1

# ***Layers– national data***



# *Layers– results per section*



# External biosecurity

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# Transport of eggs

*Does the driver have access to the egg facilities of the farm?*

	Freq	%
No, the driver doesn't have access at all	10	14.7
Yes, but only to the egg room	19	27.9
Yes, but only to the specific store room	26	38.2
Yes, the driver has access to both the egg room and specific store room	13	19.1

*Is the transport vehicle for the eggs empty on arrival at the farm?*

	Freq	%
Always	15	22.1
Never	12	17.6
Sometimes	41	60.3

# Supply of material

Are specific measures taken for the introduction of material (e.g. UV-disinfection unit, alcohol disinfection)?

	Freq	%
No	46	67.6
Yes	22	32.4

# Internal biosecurity

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# Materials and measures between houses

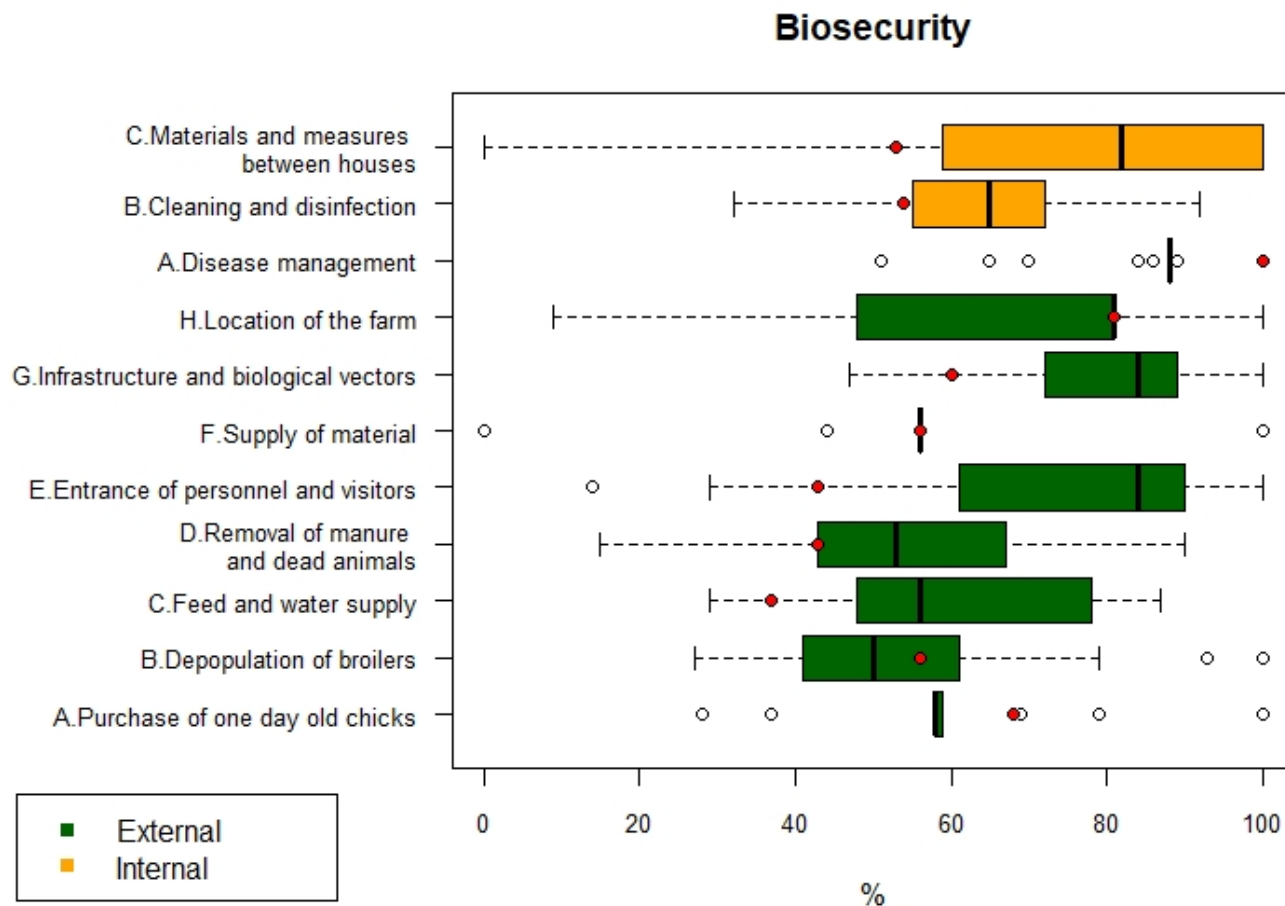
Is there a house hygiene lock present at every poultry house?

	Freq	%
No	12	40
Yes	18	60

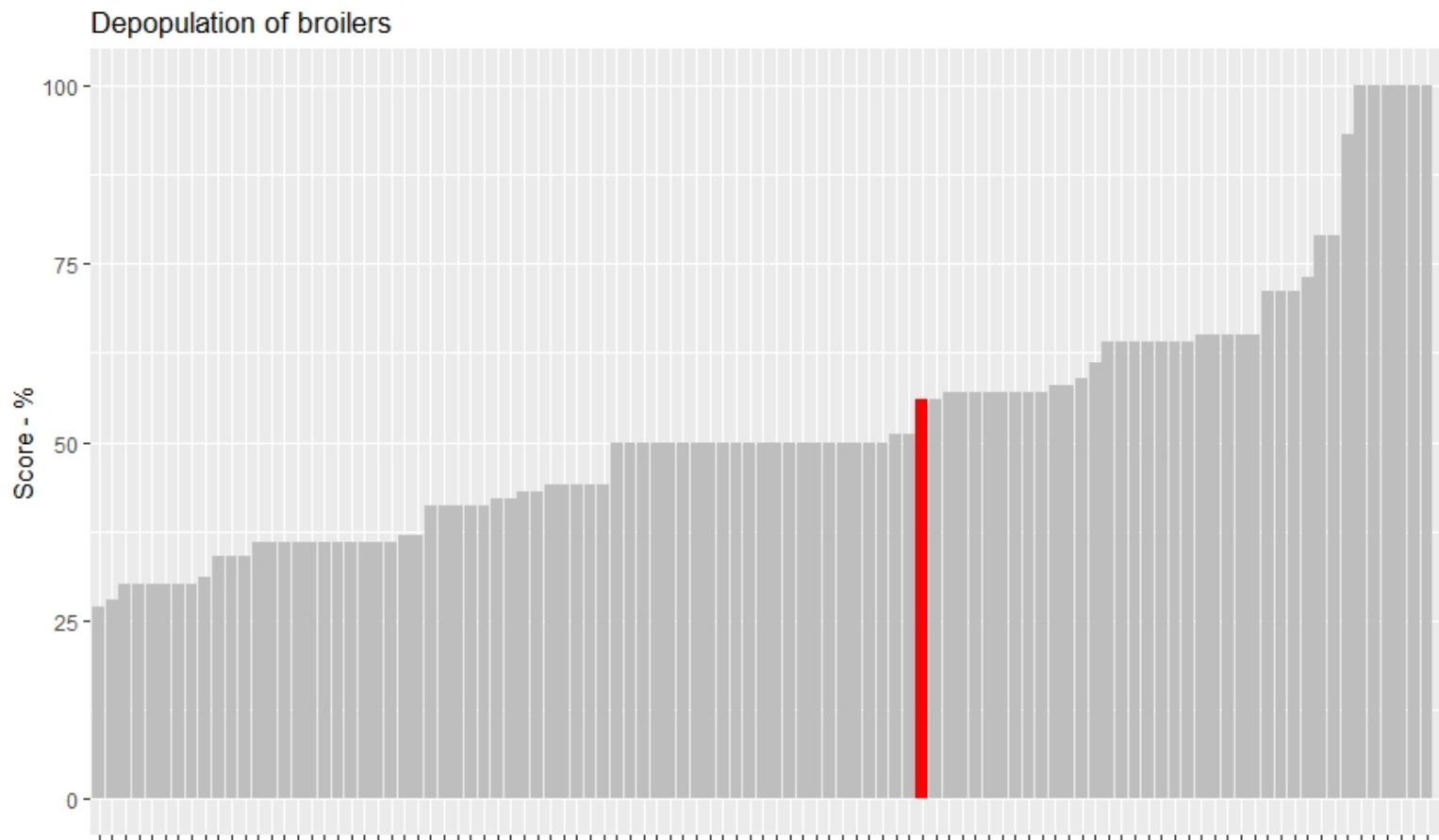


# What can be done with these data?

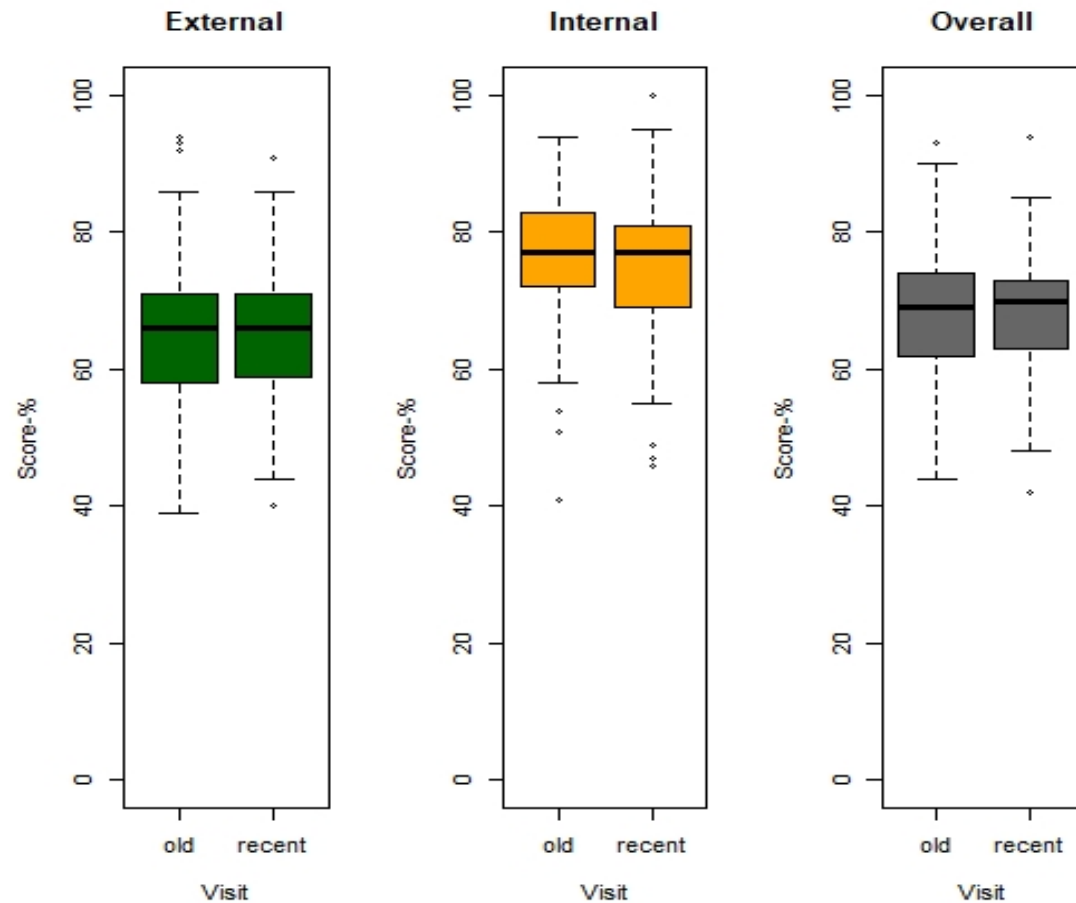
# Benchmarking



# Benchmarking



# Over time

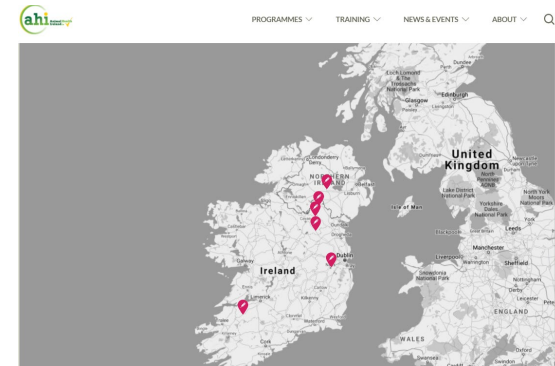


# ***Biosecurity assessments***

TASAH funds trained PVPs to deliver Annual biosecurity assessments free-of-charge.

A list of trained PVPs is available on <https://animalhealthireland.ie/training/poultry-training/>

Herd owners should contact their PVP to avail this annual service.



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