



# Salmonella reduction strategy targeted at free range laying hens

## Salmonella – manage the risk on your site!

- **Manage your turnaround:** ensure effective cleaning and disinfection of the entire site after flock depletion, do not forget staff areas and control rooms. Ensure the products you are using have proven efficacy against salmonella. All PPE used from flock to flock, such as wellies, needs to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected too.
- **Biosecurity:** a stringent and well executed biosecurity plan between sites and houses is essential for minimising the introduction and subsequent spread of salmonella on your site. The risk of external equipment such as egg trays, trolleys and delivery vehicles entering your farm should also be considered and the risk managed.
- **Rodent and insect control plan:** rodents and insects such as flies and litter beetles are known carriers of certain salmonella species (and other diseases!), posing a significant risk to your farm. Ensure there is a compliant and fully integrated rodent and insect control plan in place and implemented throughout the flock cycle, including at turnaround.
- **Range management:** a well-maintained range that discourages rodents, wild birds and other wildlife is essential.
- **Co-grazing:** co-grazing with animals such as sheep and cattle is not without risk of transferring diseases such as salmonella to your flock, therefore proactive risk management and testing of co-grazers should be discussed with your veterinarian. Co-grazing or close proximity of pigs to your site is considered extremely high risk for salmonella, especially *Salmonella Typhimurium* and is not advised.
- **Feed:** feed is a potential source of salmonella onto your site. Certain raw materials are considered higher risk. Heat treatment and acid treatment can aid in salmonella control but have no residual activity meaning the storage, transportation and management of feed on site is essential. Keep feed, feed bins and feeders clean and inaccessible to wild birds, rodents and other wildlife.
- **Water:** clean, potable water for your birds is essential for overall bird health, including minimising the risk of salmonella. Waterlines should be thoroughly cleaned at turnaround to remove any biofilm build up and in-flock water sanitisation should be in place on your site.
- **Testing of birds and the environment:** compliant testing in line with the UK National Control Plan for salmonella (NCP) is obligatory and ensures frequent surveillance and prompt identification of positive flocks.
- **Bedding:** there are a range of bedding types available each with their own advantages and risks, choose the most appropriate for your site. Ask what is being done to minimise the risk of salmonella from your bedding source.
- **Flock & environmental management:** managing the environment to minimise flock stress optimises the birds' ability to respond to disease challenges. Not only does this reduce their chances of succumbing to other opportunistic pathogens, such as *E. coli*, minimising stress also optimises their ability to respond to vaccination and therefore enables vaccines to give the best possible protection.
- **Salmonella vaccination in-rear:** there are live and inactivated (killed) vaccines available that are licensed to be administered to your birds in-rear. Your vaccination programme should be discussed with your veterinarian to ensure it is tailored to your flock's specific needs.

