The Livestock Industry in Emergency Management Poultry Sector Views

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Livestock and Biological threats emergency

Introduction, emergence, or spread of infectious agents or their toxins that can cause significant disease in animals, compromise animal welfare, disrupt production, threaten food safety, and harm national or global economies

- **Naturally occurring** (e.g., avian influenza, African swine fever)
- **Accidental** (e.g., pathogen escape from a laboratory or farm)
- **Deliberate** (e.g., intentional release of animal pathogens as bioterrorism or agro-terrorism)

Why does the livestock sector matter?

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

HIGH MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY IN ANIMALS

FOOD SECURITY

LOSS OF SAFE, AFFORDABLE ANIMAL PROTEIN SUPPLIES

TRADE AND ECONOMY

BORDER CLOSURES, CULLING, AND BANS CAN COST BILLIONS (HPAI, ASF)

PUBLIC HEALTH (ZOONOSES)

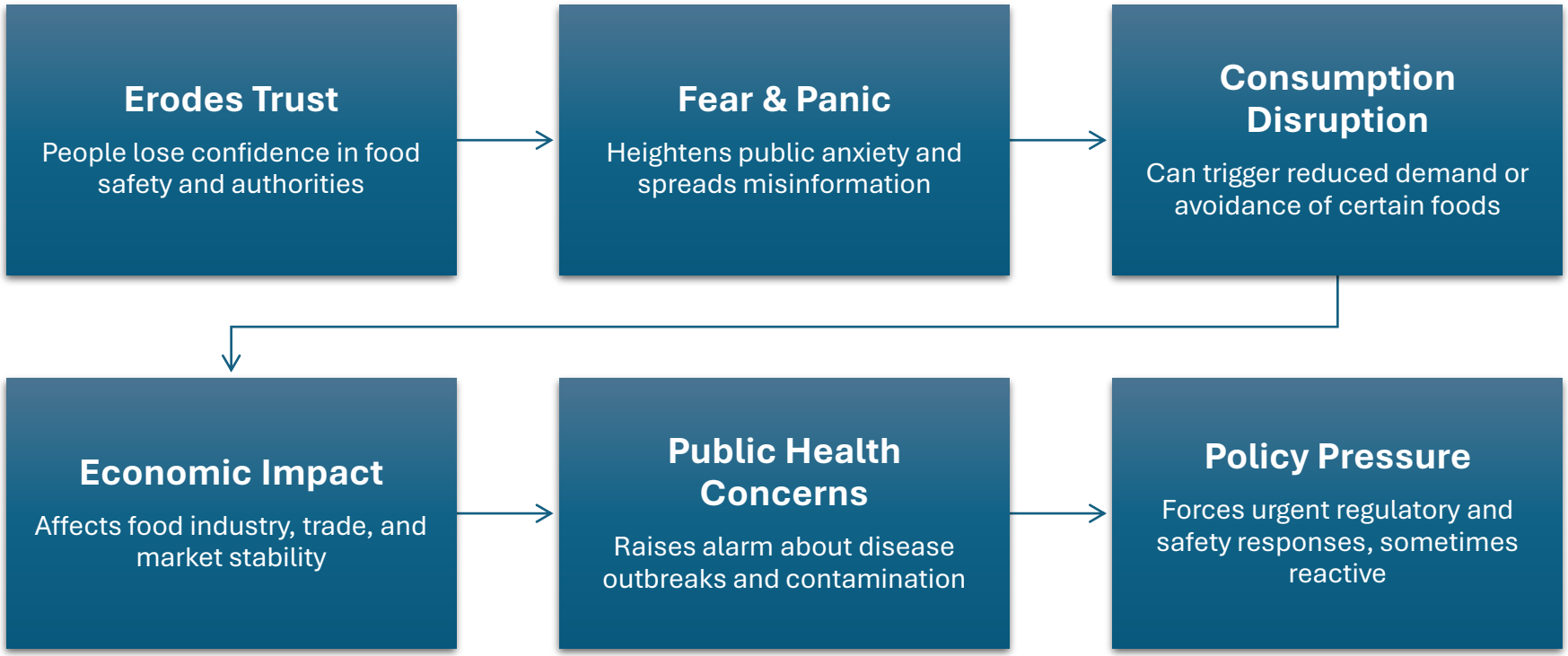
SOME LIVESTOCK PATHOGENS CAN SPILL OVER TO HUMANS

Historical biological threats in livestock

Biological Threat	Year / Location	Species Affected	Estimated Economic Loss	Key Impacts
Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)	2001, UK	Cattle, sheep, pigs	£3.1 billion (~$4.0B)	Over 6 million animals culled; tourism and agriculture severely disrupted
Avian Influenza (H5N1)	2003–2005, Southeast Asia	Poultry	$260 million (global export losses)	140 million birds culled; major trade disruptions
African Swine Fever (ASF)	2018–2019, China	Domestic pigs	$111.2 billion (0.78% of GDP)	Massive pig population loss; pork price volatility
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)	1980s–1990s, UK	Cattle	£3.7 billion (~$4.6B)	4 million cattle slaughtered; global beef export bans
Rinderpest	1980s–2000s, Africa & Asia	Cattle, buffalo	Not quantified globally	Triggered famines; hindered agricultural development

Sources: WOAH, Nature, Gilbert et al.

Biological threats, food and public opinion



Poultry sector perspective
Understanding Biological Threats in One Health Context

Key Considerations

Risk Scope: Impact on animals, workers, food, consumers, and general population

Animal Diseases: Is it zoonotic?

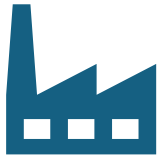
Geography: Transboundary potential (local, regional, global)

Current Global Biological Risks

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Food transfer focus

Influenza: Animal transfer focus

Both require targeted actions and interventions to minimize risks



Industry Perspective

Actions depend on national, regional, and global context

Collaboration with governments, academia, and private sector is essential

Poultry sector perspective
Framework for Industry Action

Levels of Action:

- **National:** Identify relevant ministries and authorities
- **Regional:** Consider regional trade and disease movement
- **Global:** Engage international intergovernmental organizations

Roles & Responsibilities:

- Define **who does what** in risk management and response
- Leverage industry structure and resources for effective intervention

Poultry sector perspective

Risk Management and Intervention Strategies

1. **Risk Analysis**

   Identify and assess hazards, manage risks, and communicate effectively

2. **Regulatory Processes**

   Systems to address risks to animals, workers, food, and population

3. **Sourcing & Traceability**

   Ability to identify and track products and animals

4. **Surveillance, Monitoring & Testing**

   Programs, identification, scientific analysis, laboratory capacity

5. **Interventions**

   Biosecurity, vaccinations, treatments, disposal

6. **Veterinary Infrastructure**

   Education, capacity, and readiness to support interventions

Poultry sector perspective

Industry actions

Assess internally on the sector's role, and react accordingly

AMR: IPC antimicrobial use stewardship principles and best practices on how to reduce the need of antimicrobials	**Avian Influenza**: "Issue management, plan" under construction, for helping facilitate a coordinated global industry approach

We recognize, each of these require collaboration, and for us globally, that means work with WOAH, FAO, Codex, WTO, and WHO pending the specific actions needed

Public-Private collaboration: lesson learned

Information Sharing and Surveillance

Public and private sectors can set up integrated surveillance systems to monitor selected relevant biological threats;

Sharing epidemiological data, genomic sequencing results, and outbreak reports enables faster detection and containment of biological threats;

Collaborative networks amongst all stakeholders can reduce delays in reporting and improve situational awareness.

Research and Development Collaboration

Joint R&D initiatives allow for rapid development of vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments as well as guidelines on prevention;

Governments can fund basic research, while private companies provide expertise, technology, and scalable production capabilities;

This partnership accelerates innovation and ensures that scientific discoveries translate quickly into practical solutions for public health emergencies.

Public-Private collaboration: lesson learned

Preparedness and Response Planning

Public and private sectors should co-create comprehensive emergency response plans, including containment strategies, resource allocation, and crisis communication;

Joint simulations and tabletop exercises prepares both sides to respond efficiently during crisis;

This coordinated planning ensures that medical, logistical, procurement and policy responses are synchronized, minimizing confusion during a crisis.

Regulation and Compliance Support

Sound and effective regulatory framework is paramount in reacting to any emergency;

Public and private should interact to ensure frameworks are fit-for-purpose, effective, realistic and properly understood and implemented.

Public-Private collaboration: lesson learned

Emergency Funds, and Financial Support

Emergency funds can cover costs for vaccination, biosecurity improvements, culling of infected animals, or farm sanitation measures;

Subsidies, low-interest loans, or insurance schemes help producers recover quickly and maintain farm operations without severe economic losses:

Collaborative financial support encourages proactive disease prevention and ensures the livestock sector remains resilient against future biological threats.

Training and Capacity Building

Joint programs can train healthcare workers, lab technicians, emergency responders, and policymakers in biosecurity and outbreak management;

Workshops, simulation exercises, and certification programs enhance technical skills, risk assessment, and crisis communication;

Continuous capacity building ensures that both public and private sectors are prepared to detect, respond to, and contain biological threats effectively.

Key take-home messages

Work in times of peace
Risk based assessment for resource allocation and action prioritization
Clearly define who is doing what (Private vs Public, global vs national)
Sound regulatory framework and industry guidelines
Share information and Public-Private collaboration
Promptly and transparently react and communicate
Challenge, assess and finetune the system regularly

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