



Course

Decision support and decision making in highly contagious livestock diseases, particularly Avian Influenza

Budapest, 24 – 27 April 2007

Background, aims & target audience

Highly contagious livestock diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF) and Avian Influenza (AI) continue to emerge within EU member states. It is expected that this situation will continue to last for the next decade(s). Outbreaks of these diseases have a severe impact on society as a whole and on livestock production in particular. Moreover, in addition to veterinary and economic impact, AI also has an impact on human health.

Scientists from diverse disciplines are involved in developing a variety of new tools to improve prevention and control of these diseases, e.g. vaccines and diagnostics. In disease policy making, new developments occur as well, e.g. reconsideration of the non-vaccination policy within the EU.

All these developments will have to be evaluated and implemented in new regulations and (revised) contingency plans by disease policy makers at the level of the EU, member states, regions, etc.). This will affect all stakeholders within the livestock sector. People dealing with these issues need to evaluate these developments. Only then, they will be able to adapt and implement new developments and regulations to their own situation.

This course aims to provide an up-to-date scientific basis for those involved in disease policy making in the broadest sense: veterinary officers at various levels, stakeholder representatives, and all others that should professionally be able to judge new measures and communicate with others involved. All aspects related to prevention and control of contagious livestock diseases will be addressed. The knowledge and skills provided by this course will support them in their (future) decision making. This course primarily focuses on AI, but examples from FMD and CSF will also be presented. After following the course, the participants will have:

- 1) A clear conceptual understanding of the complexity of the decision problems on prevention and control of highly contagious livestock diseases;
- 2) A good understanding of the various (quantitative) information required, how they can be obtained, how they should be used in decision making, advantages and limitations of the various information;

- 3) A good understanding of the ways various information can be obtained in scientific research (demographic, economic, wild life, epidemiology, others).

After following the course, the participants will be able to:

- 1) Identify critical decision factors in the decision making on (a) prevention and (b) control of highly contagious livestock diseases;
- 2) Rank various information/actions according to importance;
- 3) Act as intermediates between research groups (risk assessors) and decision makers (decision managers);
- 4) Better set priorities for (immediate) action;
- 5) Use the developed skills in (a) strategic decision making and (b) tactical decision making (i.e. during high alert situations).

This course is particularly aimed for decision and policy makers in highly contagious livestock diseases at the level of the EU and individual Member States, e.g. veterinary officers and representatives of stakeholders at the national level (farmers associations, product boards, veterinary associations, etc.).

Teachers

This course is organized by the Healthy Poultry consortium funded by the European Union, project nr. SSPE-CT-2004-513737.

Dr. ir. H.W. Saatkamp, Wageningen University and Researchcentre, Business Economics Group, The Netherlands, course leader

Dr. S. Marangon, Dr. L. Busani, Dr. N. Ferrè & Dr. M. Dalla Pozza, Istituto Zoo-profilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Italy

Prof. Dr. H.W. Windhorst & Dipl.-Umweltwiss. B. Grabkowsky, University of Vechta, Institute for Spatial Analysis and Planning in Areas of Intensive Agriculture, Germany

Ir. P. van Horne, Agricultural Economics Research Institute, The Netherlands

Dr. V. Guberti, Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica, Italy

Prof.dr. J.A. Stegeman & Dr. A. Bouma, Utrecht University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, The Netherlands

Course Program

The course will last 3,5 days and will consist of lectures, computer practicals and case studies. Each day a key theme in the prevention and control of highly infectious livestock diseases with emphasis on avian influenza policy making will be highlighted. During the case study on day 3, a number of cases that are brought in by the participants themselves will be discussed in small groups (e.g. design of decision support infrastructure, critical analysis of decision making in the home country, contingency planning, etc.). An inventory on the participants' wishes will be made before the course starts. For an extended description of the program, see our website: www.healthy-poultry.org

Day 1: General, demographical and organizational aspects

Lectures:

- Production, trade and bio-energy;
- Conceptualization of decision problems;
- Demographic and organizational aspects;
- Role of wildlife

Practical: Data visualisation and spatial analysis with GIS

Day 2: Epidemiological aspects

Lectures:

- Epidemiological database development and use;
- Epidemiological models for decision support

Practical: Interactive discussion on veterinary decision making in crisis situations

Day 3: Decision making aspects

Lectures:

- Financial-economic considerations;
- Multiple criteria analysis;
- Contingency planning & policy making

Case study: Various cases on decision making in prevention and control of epizootic livestock diseases

Day 4: Communication aspects

Lectures:

- Communication policy before, during and after epizootics

Case reports: Presentations of the case studies

Information and subscription

Extended description of the program: Please visit our website: www.healthy-poultry.org

Subscription: There are several ways to subscribe for this course:

- **By fax:** you can fax the registration form (see last page) to: +31 317 484763
- **By mail:** please send the registration form to: Business Economics Group
Attn. Marian Jonker
Wageningen University
P.O. Box 8130
6706 KN Wageningen
The Netherlands

- **By email:** marian.jonker@wur.nl
Make sure all the information on the registration form is enclosed in your email

Number of participants: The maximum number of participants is 25. Should there be more participants than seats available; the course will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The minimum number of participants is 15. If we have less than the required number of registrations, we will cancel the course and notify you by email within two working days after the registration deadline. In case of cancellation, the course fee will be transferred back to your account.

Course fee: The course fee is €875,- per person. The course fee includes all course materials, lunch, dinner (day 1, 2 and 3), coffee and tea.

Method of payment (see also our website): by bank transfer through IBAN/SWIFT codes; bank account: 539509426; IBAN: NL05ABNA0539509426; SWIFT/BIC: ABNANL2A; Bank name: ABN AMRO, STADSBRINK, WAGENINGEN; Account holder: MAATSCHAPPIJ WETENSCHAPPEN, WAGENINGEN; Reason: 3919/2100930600 & name participant; Currency: Euro. Make sure that you mention the course code (3919/2100930600) and the name of the participant and that all transfer fees and charges are debited to sender, not to beneficiary.

Cancellation: In case you need to cancel your participation, we must receive your cancellation request in writing (email, fax) before April 9, 2007. You will then receive a refund less a €50,- non-refundable administrative costs. No refunds will be issued if cancellation is received after this date.

Deadline for registration: April 1, 2007. After this deadline, participants will receive more information about the course as soon as possible.

Venue and accommodation: The course will be held at the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the Szent István University in Budapest, Hungary. In the near surroundings of the Veterinary Faculty there are several hotels. Participants will arrange their own accommodation, but the organizers are willing to mediate (see our website: www.healthy-poultry.org).

For more detailed information:

See our website: www.healthy-poultry.org, or send an email to: Petra.Geenen@wur.nl
Petra Geenen, Wageningen University and Research Centre, Business Economics Group,
Tel. +31 317 483636, fax. +31 317 482745

Registration form

Course: Decision support and decision making in highly contagious livestock diseases, particularly Avian Influenza

Title & Name: _____ **m/f**

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

City: _____

Country: _____

Tel.: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Diet restrictions or wishes (e.g. vegetarian): _____

Experience with geographical information systems (GIS): (please cross appropriate box)

No experience Little experience Advanced

Date: _____

Signature: _____