



IMPROVING PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

---

# BIOSECURITY

A PUBLICATION BY THE BRITISH FREE RANGE EGG PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

## INTRODUCTION



### **Improving our biosecurity goes a long way to safeguarding our businesses from the risks of Avian Influenza.**

Avian Influenza has taught us that it is no longer business as usual. We have to take steps to safeguard our businesses and the industry.

Identifying and understanding how and what changes could be made may be the difference between a productive year and a devastating year.

Maintaining strict biosecurity measures is vital in preventing the introduction and spread of all poultry diseases and pathogens, including Avian Influenza and salmonella.

Good biosecurity protects your flock, neighbouring flocks, and the industry in general. Diseases can spread easily and are not always evident until too late.

## Site Entrance



**Poor** - No secure outer perimeter – open access with no immediately visible signage - if the gates are left open there is no obvious perimeter barrier and the signs on the gates cannot be easily read.

## Areas surrounding buildings



**Poor** - generally unclean/contaminated concrete surfaces in front of the poultry housing.



**Poor** - generally unclean/heavily contaminated surfaces on the approach to the poultry housing.









## Areas surrounding buildings

**Suboptimal** - silo sitting on a well maintained concrete pad with no evidence of feed spillage but feed delivery vehicle area is only undisinfectable soil.



**Suboptimal** - significant wild bird faeces contamination around silo ventilation inlets due to wild birds perching on the feed pipe. Potential for wild bird faeces to be washed into the silo, although unclear whether there are any internal mitigating features inside the structure to prevent such ingress of contaminated material onto the feed.



## Buildings/Housing



**Poor** - muddy concrete around doors and presence of sandbags suggests risk of water ingress into the housing.



**Poor** - inadequate roller door seal may potentially allow external water ingress into the housing.



**Poor** - obvious gaps potentially allowing wild bird ingress into the polytunnel.



**Good - Innovative** – fine gauge netting angled away from the housing/ventilation inlets allows it to be largely self cleaning when it rains to prevent excessive dust build up.





**Good** - well meshed ridge inlet with narrow guage 9mm netting to prevent access by even very small wild birds.



**Good** - narrow guage 12mm meshing as secondary wild bird proofing on light baffle inlets.





## Bedding Management/storage



**Good** - unpopulated poultry house used to store straw bedding under cover.



**Poor** - -- obvious evidence of rodent droppings on bedding straw.





**Poor** - obvious evidence of rodent droppings on bedding straw and possible suggestion that rodents may be nesting in the straw.



**Poor** - bedding straw accessible to contamination by wild birds and rodents.



**Suboptimal** - bedding stored outside but double wrapped with additional cover. Vital to discard any bales that appear damaged and ensure that the inner wrapping is disinfected before carrying into the poultry housing.



**Suboptimal** - straw barn is netted but with obvious gaps potentially allowing wild bird access.

**The Hard Inner Shell**



**Poor** - water header tank lid appears to be incompletely secured potentially allowing access by rodents.





**Poor** - gaps in meshing covering ventilation inlets.



**Good** - well maintained and coverable foot dip for outdoor use containing in-built brushes to aid cleaning.



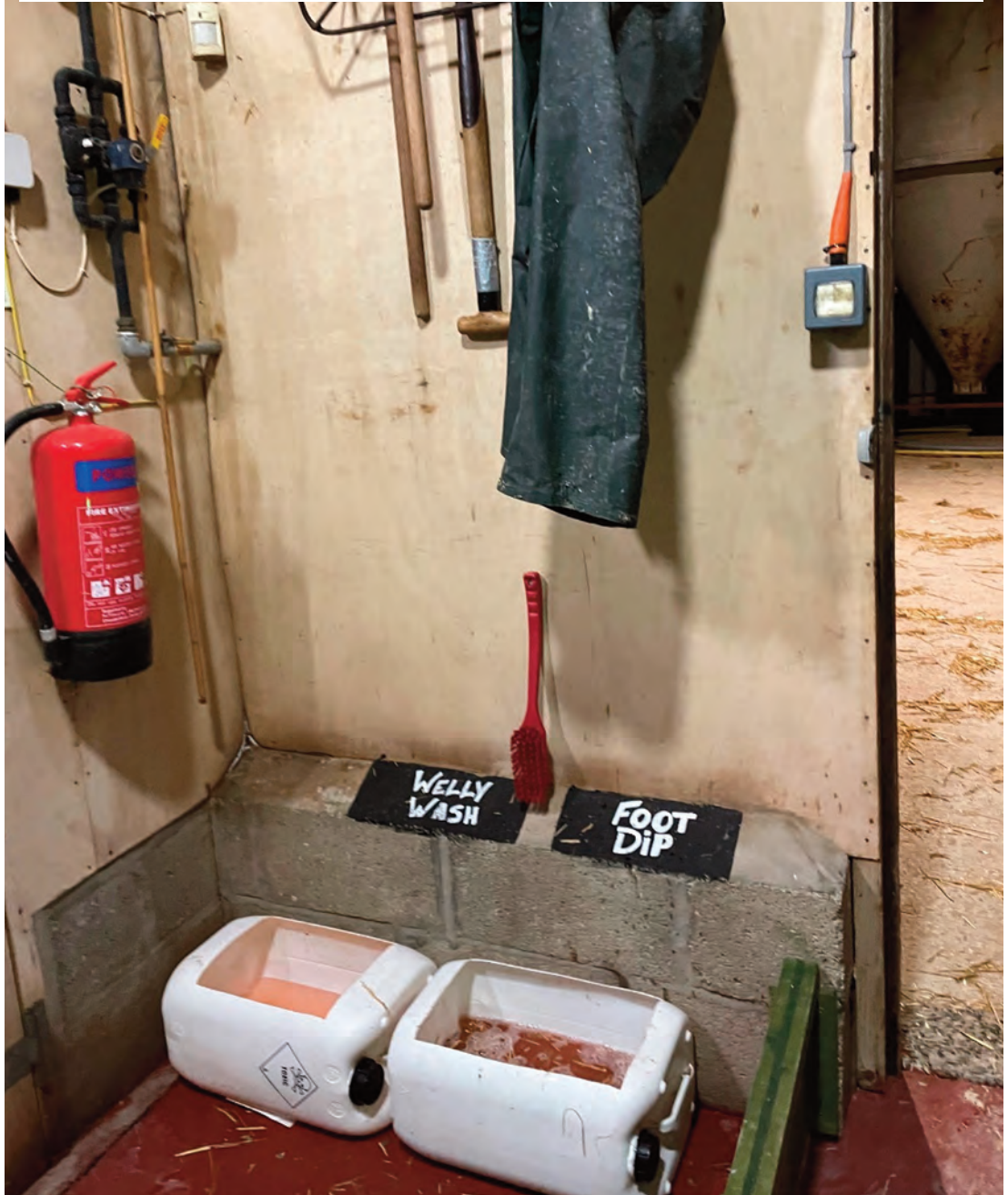
**Good** - tidy and clean swing over hygiene barrier area with very clean boots.



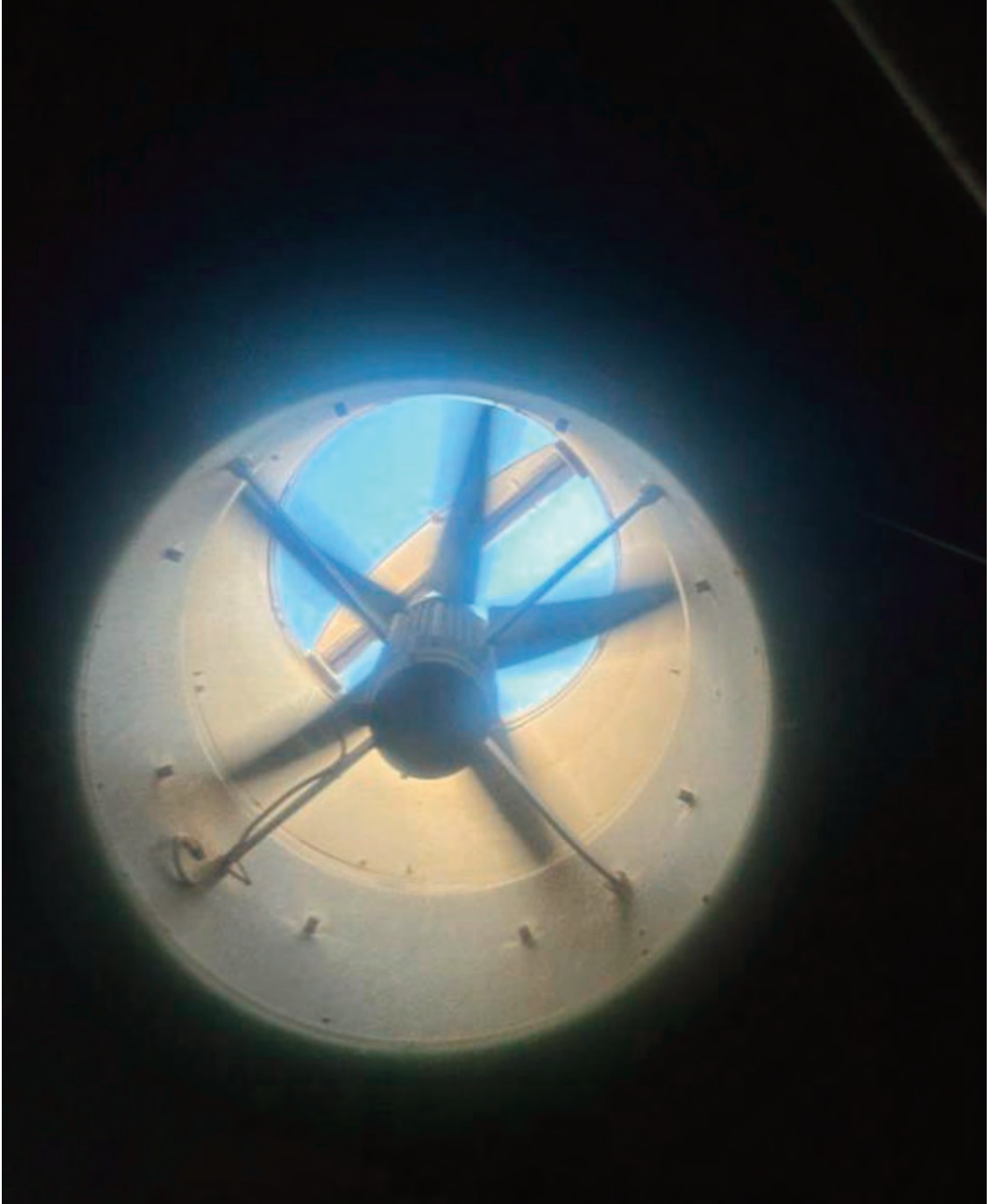
**Suboptimal** - stepover hygiene barrier but messy on both sides and unclear how practically easy it is to effectively change from outdoor to shed boots whilst keeping outdoor boots on the "dirty" side. The chair may be better placed on the outside of the barrier to allow staff to sit down and remove outdoor boots then swing legs over to step directly into the shed boots?



**Good, but** - boot wash and brush provided to allow thorough cleaning of boots before disinfection but the aperture size may be challenging to allow effective immersion and cleaning of larger boot sizes. But - the disinfectant foot dip appears to be more heavily contaminated with material than the welly wash, casting doubt on how effectively the prior welly wash is actually being used before the disinfectant?



**Suboptimal** - ventilation chimney directly open to the exterior with potential for contaminated material (wild bird faeces, feathers etc.) to fall directly into the bird area. Potential for any contaminated material accumulated on the valve to fall or be washed into the bird area when the valve opens?

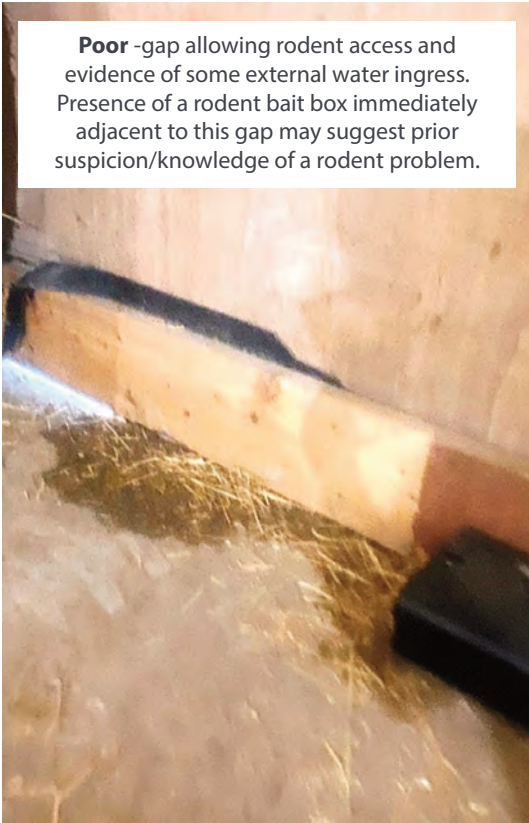






**Suboptimal** - vent meshed but with gaps around the ratchet arm potentially allowing ingress by small wild birds when baffle is open. Possibly better to consider looser fitting meshing affixed externally to enable flexing when the baffle is opened?

**Poor** -gap allowing rodent access and evidence of some external water ingress. Presence of a rodent bait box immediately adjacent to this gap may suggest prior suspicion/knowledge of a rodent problem.



**Good** - provision of brushes and hand sanitising facilities.



**Poor** – roof vents meshed but mesh has detached from its attachments leaving gaps accessible to small wild birds.

