



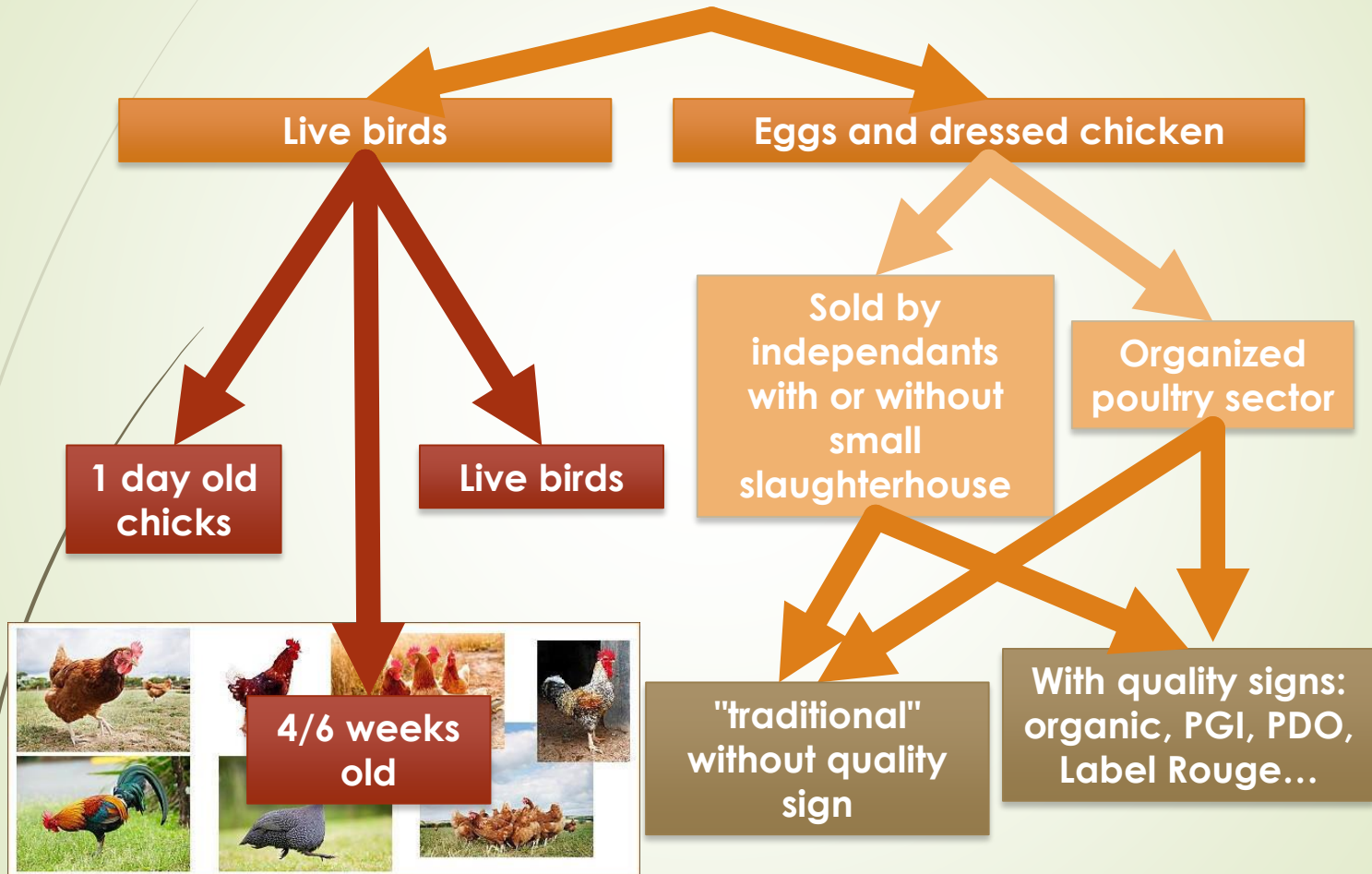
ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DE VOLAILLES RURALES
EUROPEAN RURAL POULTRY ASSOCIATION



ERPA's biosecurity information sheets

ERPA - www.erp-ruralpoultry.eu

Rural poultry: productions and varied producers ...



... with many similarities

- An extensive **free range** method respecting animal welfare, and the use of poultry **adapted to free range**
- **Colored birds** from rustic **slow-growing strains**
- A product of **recognized quality**
- Flocks with **limited size**
- **Family farms**

= « traditional poultry »





... which represent a large number of producers, mainly in the South and East of Europe

➤ Approximately 2.5 million colored breeding birds in Europe

= more than 400 million rural poultry produced annually in Europe, including 130 million Label Rouge poultry in France and organic production in Southern Europe

= thousands of producers, mostly family farms

➤ For the whole chain: a turnover of about 2 billion euros

➤ A large number of other specialized operators concerned along the supply chain: breeders for genetic selection, hatchers, transporters, local small slaughterhouses, feed firms, stores, etc.

Rural poultry and Avian Influenza

- ▶ **A difficult context since 2016**, with a very virulent H5N8 virus spread by wild birds, affecting all types of production.
- ▶ **Positions defended by ERPA:**
 - **No focus on free range poultry.** Confinement is useful in some situations, but should not be systematic.
 - **Specificities of rural poultry are able to limit AI spreading:** hardiness of poultry, small size of farms, low densities...
 - It is important and possible to implement **serious biosecurity measures, including for rural poultry.**



ERPA's biosecurity information sheets for rural poultry farmers in Europe

- ▶ Result of a **work carried out by ERPA in 2016/2017** with **Pf. Jean-Luc GUERIN, Chair for Avian Biosecurity at INP Toulouse**
 - Comparison of the biosecurity regulations of several Member states to protect against AI
 - Definition of homogenous biosecurity measures for all the rural poultry farmers in Europe.
- ▶ **1 document with 2 sheets**, including the basic principles to be respected in a poultry farm: protection of the rearing areas and management of interventions, management of the production units independently from each other, separation of palmipeds/gallinaceans, protocol of use of the changing room, application of waiting periods, and protection of animal feed, water and poultry in case of Avian Influenza in wild birds.



Recommended biosecurity measures for rural poultry

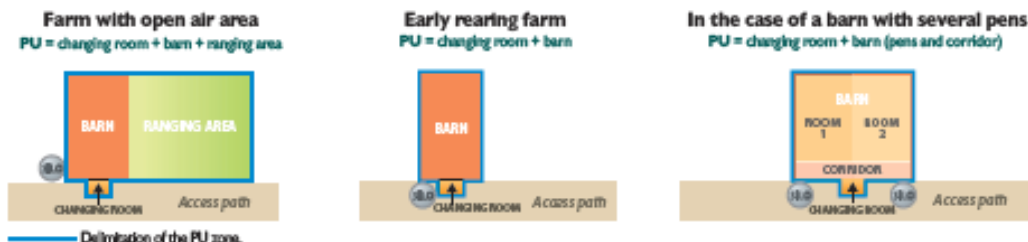
Manage your production units

You must manage your farm with production units (PU) that are sanitarly independent.

Each PU :

- must be physically limited by walls for barns and nettings for ranging areas
- must contain only one type of poultry : palmipeds or gallinaceans
- should only contain poultry of the same age
- must have a changing room in good shape, which allows the independent sanitary management of the PU.

Examples of production units (PU) :



Separate poultry species

Palmipeds (ducks, geese) and gallinaceans (chickens, guinea fowls, turkeys) must not be reared in the same production units.

They must not come into contact with each other because they don't react in the same way with the avian influenza virus.



Protect feed and water

If you have a free-range farming system, the ranging areas must not have water or feed points because that could attract wild birds.

ERPA recommends to feed and water only inside the buildings. If impossible, protect these water/ feed points from wild birds with a roof and netting.



Protect your poultry

In case of an important risk of introduction of avian influenza by wild birds, it is recommended to keep the poultry inside the building (if animal welfare allows it), or to reduce the size of the ranging area (water points must be excluded from the ranging area).

It is important to follow the recommendations of your veterinary authorities on the most appropriate approach for your case.





Recommended biosecurity measures for rural poultry

Pay attention to visitors' entrances/exits



Your farm must have a clear border that customers or other visitors should not cross.
No visitors or other people who are not essential to the farm should enter the production unit.
The use of chains and warning signs is highly recommended.
In case an outside person has to enter the production unit, it is imperative to use the changing room following the protocol described below.

The steps to use the changing room

Use of the changing room **TO ENTER** the production unit :



- 1 In the external zone :**
Take off your shoes and clothes.
Place the feet only in the inner zone or on a slatted floor; e.g. by pivoting on the separation bench or passing over the separation board.
- 2 In the inner zone :**
Wash hands with soap or hydro-alcohol gel.
- 3 Put on the outfit and shoes specific to the production unit, put a hair-net on top of the hair.**

Use of the changing room **TO EXIT** from the production unit :



- 4 In the inner zone :**
Remove clothing and shoes specific to the production unit and take the hair-net off.
- 5 In the inner zone :**
Wash hands with soap or hydro-alcohol gel.
- 6 Pivot on the separation bench or pass over the separation board, then, in the inner zone, put on your clothes and shoes.**

Example of changing room :



Apply a waiting period

Between the depletion of a flock and the placement of a new one, you must wait for a period of time called "waiting period" that begins after cleaning and disinfection of the houses.

ERPA advises a period of 15 days on average, the houses must be completely dry before the placement of a new house.
This recommendation cannot replace the official regulation that applies in your country.



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