

Rethinking inspection in slaughterhouses

Opportunities and challenges of a shared risk management system in poultry slaughterhouses

Morgane Salines^{1,2}, Virginie Allain¹, Sophie Le Bouquin¹, Catherine Magras²

¹ ANSES, Ploufragan/Plouzané Laboratory, Poultry Epidemiology and Welfare Unit, Ploufragan, France

² LUNAM Université, Oniris, INRA, UMR 1014 Secalim, Nantes, France

Context. Surveillance systems are increasingly managed in a cooperative way, involving several stakeholders sharing tasks. In France, poultry slaughterhouse staff – specially trained – is allowed to participate in the tasks of official auxiliaries under the supervision and the responsibility of Official Veterinary Services (OVS) and on the basis of a risk analysis. To organise well the interaction between stakeholders in this shared risk management, the current control system is based on alerts from Food Business Operators (FBOs) to OVS.

AIMS

Led a few years after the implementation of this shared risk management system in France, our field study aims to obtain a feedback from stakeholders regarding:

- the way the system is effectively implemented in slaughterhouses
- the impact, challenges and opportunities of this method on the work organisation

METHODS



Investigation method

- Semi-structured interviews following the framework of a Knowledge-Attitude-Practices study
- Led with both official veterinarians or auxiliaries AND quality managers or assistants, separately



Data collection & analysis

- Face-to-face and recorded interviews
- Qualitative analysis



Study sample

- 22 interviews with OVS (=25 interviewees)
- 9 interviews with FBOs (=10 interviewees)
- 30 slaughterhouses
- Various poultry species, tonnage & work/inspection organisations

25  10 



RESULTS

Various field organisations

- Various control task division (e.g. duplicated FCI analysis by FBOs and OVS in some slaughterhouses)
- Targeted and differentiated use of means of communication depending on the alert severity
- In all cases, alerts were triggered using procedures

Turning challenges into opportunities

Tasks & skills

- Increase of FBOs' responsibilities
- Diversification of OVS's missions to include more management
- Complementarity of FBOs' field skills and OVS' veterinary expertise

- Time for alert management
- Stricter formalism
- Implementation of training sessions
- Restructuration of teams

- Various, depending on the slaughterhouse
- Often increased and improved by the alert system

Communication & trust

Organisational constraints

CONCLUSIONS & PERSPECTIVES

- Well-functioning system thanks to good preparedness, proper definition of missions and roles, and implementation of specific procedures.
- Possibilities for OVS and FBOs to take advantage of their respective skills and to take new responsibilities.
- Organisational constraints & lack of communication in some slaughterhouses.
- Mitigating administrative burden & sustaining constructive relationships remain challenges to be taken up.