

BEST *of* **BRITISH**



Livetec

Building the future
of livestock protection™

Protect your flock, your business, yourself

BRITISH FARMING – BRITISH BUSINESSES

Everything You Need to Strengthen Farm Biosecurity.



For over a decade, Livetec have proudly supported poultry and egg producers with leading contingency planning, biosecurity, training and digital solutions to protect animals, people and businesses.

Do you know your biosecurity score?

Our practical digital biosecurity tool, eBAS, helps poultry producers assess, improve and monitor biosecurity across their site, with all the expert knowledge of Livetec, now digitised and at your fingertips.



Download your **FREE** digital biosecurity tool today



“ The Livetec team know what they're talking about - they deal with this on a daily basis - and for us, it's money well spent to gain their expertise. ”

Catherine Armstrong
Detchant Farm



Is your business prepared for the future?

Our expert team supports producers like you to prepare for, manage and recover from disease outbreaks.



Find out more today

Explore accredited training for your team

We deliver practical training that goes beyond compliance through flexible eLearning and expert-led face-to-face courses, helping livestock businesses build confident teams, strengthen on-farm practices and meet industry standards.



Explore our range of courses

Livetec

Building the **future** of livestock protection™

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YOU ARE NOW ENTERING A

RANGE
AREA



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Livetec:

Protect your flock, your business, yourself

Poultry farmers are facing an increasingly complex disease landscape with significant threats from both endemic and exotic diseases. Current outbreak risks from Salmonella, Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease are well documented, so putting in place systems to strengthen biosecurity and ultimately plan for the worst is key to protecting businesses and the people who work in them.

Strong biosecurity may not prevent every disease outbreak, but it can mitigate much of

the risk. Making full use of available digital tools and data to predict disease pressure, plan and monitor defences can help reduce the risk of disease incursion onto a farm.

Disease outbreaks put significant stress on producers. They can have a significant financial and emotional impact. Crucial business decisions are often made quickly with very little time for thought, and the consequences must be lived with.

Having a clear contingency plan in place for such

an event will not only reduce the immediate producer stress but will also allow authorities to work quickly and efficiently, minimising the financial impact on the farm and expediting a return to normality and day-to-day routine.

Livetec specialises in livestock biosecurity and disease preparedness. They've utilised 15 years of on-farm practical experience to create digital tools, training packages and contingency plans to support and help businesses prepare for and manage disease risks.

Livetec's approach is based on four key pillars: prediction, planning, preparedness, and prevention.

- **Prediction** – Understanding how disease pressure evolves and/or changes in the environment.
- **Planning** – Identifying farm vulnerabilities and the measures required to mitigate them.
- **Preparedness** – Ensuring measures and resources are in place, and people are trained to use them.
- **Prevention** – Implementing biosecurity to control and monitor the potential pathways through which disease can enter.

Prediction

Can we predict disease pressure?

Information gathered from monitoring both the wider disease landscape and risks specific to a farm's location can be used to develop proportionate biosecurity measures and protocols.

An understanding of how disease pressure can change according to season, local geography, wild-bird movements, other farm activity, and people's movements between holdings will help predict risk.

The Livestock Protect platform, which won Innovation of the Year at the National Egg and Poultry Awards (NEPA), helps farmers to check for disease pressure in their area.

Available as a free app, it provides real-time



INDUSTRY VIEW

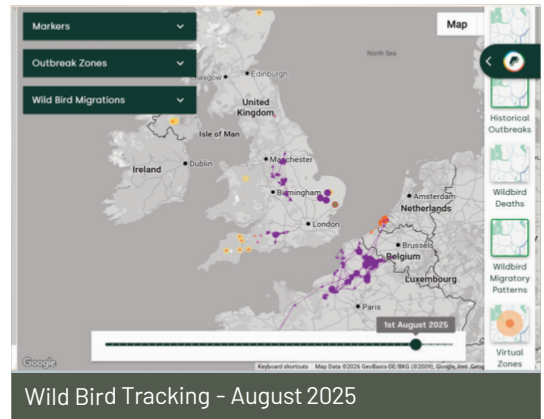
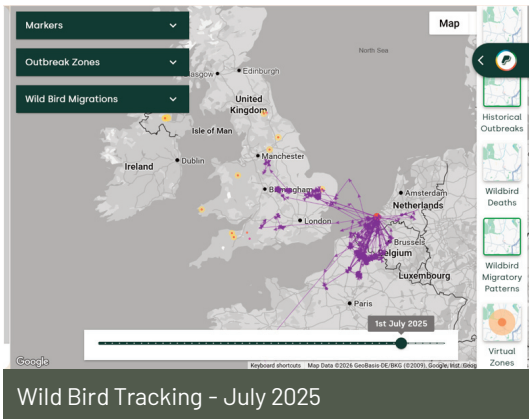


Richard Griffiths, chief executive of British Poultry Council, emphasises the importance of accurate, timely data for the success and resilience of the sector.

"Used well, technology can help producers make better-informed decisions, anticipate risk and plan ahead," he says.

"But the data's real value comes when industry works together to turn that insight into practical action that strengthens businesses and the wider food system."

Comparison of Wild Bird Tracking in Livestock Protect App.



information pinpointing where dead wild birds (with AI) are being found, along with the locations and zones associated with actual AI outbreaks. European data is included, which allows the user to track the progress of AI across the continent.

Along with some additional wild bird tracking data, this information can act as an early warning system for the build-up of disease pressure. A biosecurity chatbot also provides instant access to expert advice if needed.

Planning

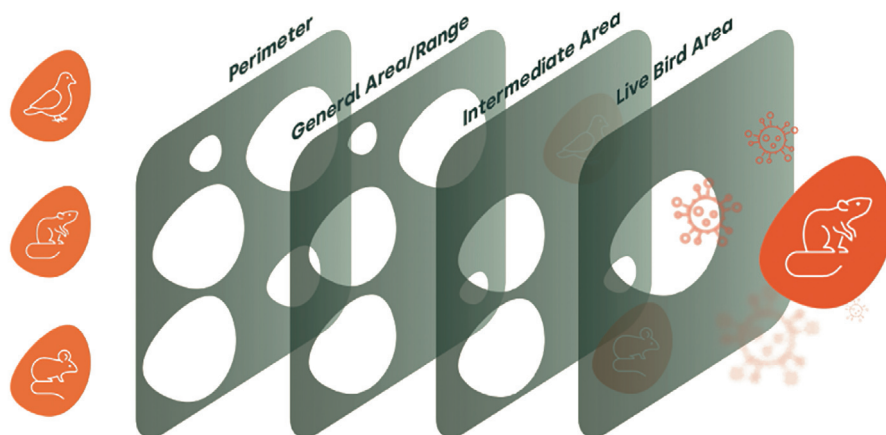
If understanding disease pressure is the first step, the next is identifying where the farm may be vulnerable and deciding what, if anything, needs to change.

Disease outbreaks are rarely the

result of a catastrophic breakdown in biosecurity systems. More often, they stem from seemingly insignificant infractions in day-to-day routines and farm management.

Whilst these issues may seem small, they can make a significant difference to the risk of disease entering the farm. Identifying and assessing potential vulnerabilities, and deciding what improvements need to be made, is therefore time well spent.





The key areas to prioritise are access to the birds, access to the poultry building and access to the site.

Access will include staff, equipment, sundries, visitors, wild birds, vermin and dirty water. All these need to be controlled to maintain a biosecure site.

The correct structures are also important, including sound building infrastructure, secure doors, barrier systems, hygiene facilities, boundary gates and fences.

Of equal, if not more importance, is the way these structural biosecurity items are used and managed by personnel on site. Ensuring staff and visitors understand and recognise the risks is crucial to implementing biosecurity measures.

Benchmark biosecurity

Livetec's electronic Biosecurity Assessment Tool, eBAS, is now freely available to all poultry producers. It is designed to allow poultry keepers to undertake a detailed review of their own biosecurity provision and get some practical advice to help them mitigate disease risks.



"Outbreak investigations suggest it's often small weaknesses in biosecurity management that result in disease entering the farm."

Jack Hughes, Livetec biosecurity team manager

It highlights where businesses are performing well, whilst identifying vulnerabilities in biosecurity structures and implementation.

The system provides an overall biosecurity score, alongside individual scores for defined biosecurity zones. These scores reflect the situation on individual farms and will be useful to track and document any changes or improvements made.

Utilised ahead of Defra-funded poultry biosecurity reviews, which are part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway, the results from eBAS can be shared with the farm's vet to help facilitate meaningful conversations around specific areas of concern.

Poultry producers can access an eBAS assessment by downloading the Livestock Protect mobile app.

Completing an eBAS may lead to more questions and a need for more specific advice. Livetec biosecurity advisers offer site-specific risk assessments and consultancy support.

Working with experienced advisers who understand the processes and pressures involved can make a significant difference.

Preparedness

Whilst planning identifies vulnerabilities and the improvements needed, preparedness ensures the people, systems and resources are in place to maintain strong day-to-day biosecurity and respond effectively to an outbreak if it occurs.

Alongside any improvements made to structural biosecurity, it is very important to ensure that staff understand why the improvement is needed and their role in ensuring it works as designed.

Preparedness is also about preparing for the worst, and this is where a well-documented contingency plan is essential.



PRODUCER EXPERIENCE



Noble Foods Ltd agriculture director Barney Kay says:

"For me it's been about working with the professionals in biosecurity to identify the main risk areas on our farms, making sure we have the right systems and processes in place for our staff and then most importantly supporting our teams with training to keep this awful disease out of our flocks."

"Under the guidance of Livetec we continue to make investment that will reduce our AI risks and give our teams the tools to make sure they are following simple ways of working to keep the risk of disease entry to a minimum."



"We see all too often strict biosecurity rules that have just been imposed on staff, with no explanations of why they are needed or how they are supposed to work. Without this basic knowledge it is difficult to see how there can be any buy in from staff when genuine improvements have been made."

Dr Paul Talling, Livetec's lead biosecurity advisor



FARMER EXPERIENCE



For Stranraer producer and BFREPA chairman, James Baxter, having a contingency plan in place proved especially useful during an outbreak. He says that without the plan in place – and support from Livetec who came to assist during the first few days of the outbreak – the situation would have been a lot worse.

"Advice from Livetec led to many key decisions being made during the outbreak including phone calls to divert feed delivery and egg collection lorries, which put a further stop to transmission and tracking requirements," he says.

In the event of a suspected case of AI, for example, having the necessary information readily available for authorities can help minimise delays, bird mortalities, production downtime, potential compensation losses and producer/staff stress.



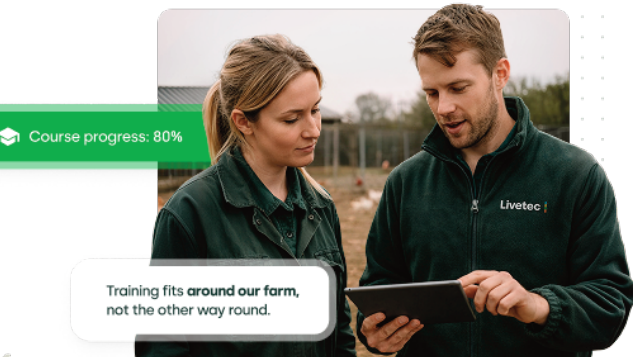
Livetec's digital Emergency Response Plan (ERP) tool helps producers develop a contingency plan. This plan gives a step-by-step guide for staff to follow if a notifiable disease is suspected and all the information that a government vet would need during an initial site inspection. The digital platform puts critical information at their fingertips when time is of the essence.

Having a plan is only part of preparedness. Induction and refresher training can help ensure staff and others understand their roles and can respond effectively.

Livetec offers online and face-to-face preparedness training to help livestock businesses prepare for current and evolving disease risks such as avian influenza and African swine fever.



Example of a barrier system



Biosecurity fatigue is often cited by professionals as a major cause of disease incursion. A drop-off in compliance over time is a natural human behaviour, especially if no adverse consequences have been experienced. Relaxing access rules to site, allowing boot dips to get dirtier, not checking as regularly for vermin or bird activity and not changing boots and/or PPE for short visits are all examples of biosecurity fatigue.

But any one of these lapses could be the route by which livestock is exposed to the pathogen.



Prevention

Having good structural biosecurity in place is only half the story. How it is used is just as critical.

Clearly defined entry points, robust and well-proofed buildings, easy-to-use barrier systems, good site layout, and accurate visitor records can all help reduce potential disease incursion, but if these systems are not properly monitored and maintained, gaps in these biosecurity structures will appear.

For effective prevention, compliance monitoring is essential. This is made easier if the biosecurity structures themselves are easy to use and maintain and the protocols and procedures in place are simple and straightforward.

For example, where barrier systems are in place, the differentiation between "clean" and "dirty" should always be obvious.

Compliance monitoring is everyone's responsibility, and all staff and visitors should be empowered to call out bad practice.



Simplifying site access

Producers should not underestimate the role of accurate visitor and movement records in preventing and managing disease outbreaks. The best paper-based systems often become illegible over time, inaccurate or incomplete and at worst, can be lost.

Livestock units see a high volume of people movement, including external visitors who may not be familiar with site-specific biosecurity procedures. Knowing exactly who's been on site, when, and why, is crucial for maintaining site biosecurity and for any subsequent

outbreak investigation.

Livetec's digital sign-in system, Access Protect, enables producers to see who is on site, why they are on site and when they left. Using a mobile phone, this digital system makes it easy for visitors to provide the right information, while providing the farm with clearer and more accurate records.

Access Protect uses QR codes and has an auto-fill function, making return visits even simpler to record. The system can also have a role in site health and safety.



Expert support

While prediction, planning, preparedness and prevention cannot guarantee an outbreak will never occur, having effective biosecurity systems in place can help mitigate much of the risk, reducing disease impact, minimising production losses and supporting mental wellbeing.

**Scan the QR Code to
download the Livestock
Protect app NOW!**



CHECKLIST: WHAT PRODUCERS CAN DO TODAY

- Download the Livestock Protect app
- Check the current disease picture
- Complete the free eBAS assessment and identify the farm's highest-priority risks
- Review contingency planning and staff training
- Review access and movement controls
- Contact Livetec to learn more about its wider consultancy and training support.



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