



# Good housekeeping

In response to an increase in poultry farm break-ins by animal rights activists (six that we are aware of so far this year) the National Poultry Board felt it was important and helpful to raise awareness of farm security and good housekeeping. In response to the industry doing well and often prompted by an increase in planning applications, animal rights activists have increased their activity and are targeting our sector.

The advice that we have put together is largely common sense and is very much attention to detail, however, it is based on our experience on the areas that activists focus on when they break into our sheds. One area is to avoid temporarily storing dead birds in the control room overnight – this is often a result of walking the birds last thing at night and picking up the handful of dead birds or leg culls that were missed the previous walk. From our experience activists are likely to use these birds and plant them in the shed to make mortality look high and also that the farmer is not picking up his dead.

As well as dead birds, lame birds are a particular focus for activists. Please ensure that birds with leg health issues are culled promptly.

Please also ensure that any medicines or chemicals such as empty bottles of vaccine, rodenticides, multi vits, probiotics, etc are securely stored away and disposed of properly. A cache of empty vaccine vials disposed of in a non secured dustbin can be discovered and portrayed by activists as over use of antibiotics as well as irresponsible disposal.

The guidance also majors on the importance of locking all doors, including occasionally used catcher doors. Having looked after broiler units we know locking doors can be a nuisance but we need to do it. From our experience the weak areas are unlocked doors.

There is no criticism intended. Please do everything that you possibly can to minimise the risk and consequent damage. Any feedback please let Chief Poultry Adviser Gary Ford know.



 <p>Pick up dead and remove to secure storage promptly and without delay</p>	 <p>Do not have a temporary overnight storage – dead/culled birds left in the control room overnight must be avoided</p>	 <p>Ensure that dead bins are locked and located well away from the birds</p>	 <p>Birds that have leg health issues should be culled promptly and humanely</p>	 <p>All sheds doors including catching doors should be kept locked even when the manager is on site</p>
 <p>Don't leave the site until you have resolved any issue you wouldn't want to see in the press the following day</p>	 <p>Treat drugs for what they are – drugs – and keep them clean, cool and secure</p>	 <p>Never leave medicines or vaccines on display</p>	 <p>Lock away all paperwork and safely dispose of old paperwork and out-of-date certificates</p>	 <p>Everything has a home – put it back at the end of the day so that it is easy to find tomorrow</p>
 <p>Spilt feed is unprofitable and a hazard – clean it up before the wild birds (AI risk) and vermin (salmonella risk) do</p>	 <p>Remember – anything that doesn't look right, isn't right</p>	 <p>Get onto maintenance early before a routine job becomes a crisis – a leaking nipple on a drinker line will only get worse not better</p>	 <p>Act at all times as if the farm assurance auditor or a member of the public is coming round today</p>	 <p>Ring police without delay if you spot anything suspicious or suspect you have had a break-in, and join a Farm Watch scheme in your area</p>