

Control of *Salmonella* in laying flocks

No 2 - Boot hygiene

Background

- *Salmonella*, and other diseases, can be easily ‘walked’ in’ to a poultry house.
- Droppings of wild birds, foxes, badgers, pet and feral cats and dogs, as well as surface water outside houses can contain *Salmonella*. This can sometimes be at high levels in sticky material as this protects *Salmonella* from disinfectants.
- One flock on a multiflock farm may also be unknowingly infected.
- Muck protects *Salmonella* from disinfectants and even in good conditions most disinfectants take at least several minutes to work.
- This means that disinfectant boot dips alone are unlikely to give sufficient protection for your flocks, and should be combined with a boot change.



Action

- Use a chlorocresol-based boot dip, or a strong peracetic acid based disinfectant, at a minimum of Defra General Orders (GO) Concentration.
- Consult the Defra and BEIC websites for approved disinfectants and GO concentrations (<http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/>)
- Use a measure so that the disinfectant concentration is correct.
- Replenish disinfectants at least every week; more often if dirty, depleted or diluted by rain water (picture 1). Use a lid to prevent dilution by rain water and evaporation of active ingredients.
- Avoid boots with deep cleats.
- Use a brush or hose to clean dirty boots before dipping (picture 2).
- Take special care to remove mud after visiting range areas.



- Dip the whole foot – not just the sole.
- Dip boots both when entering and leaving service areas and houses to increase disinfectant contact time between houses (picture 3).
- Keep house entry areas clean and free of litter or pooled water.
- Provide separate boots for entering bird areas of each free-range or barn house and ensure that they are always used (picture 4).
- Provide shelving or a stand to put things on when changing boots.

- Demarcate a ‘dirty’ (outside boot) and ‘clean’ (inside boot) section in the boot changing area.
- Clean and disinfect service areas frequently.

