



# Biosecurity in French cattle farms: attitude and expectations of farmers, ways to improve

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*EAAP – Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015*

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# Biosecurity: a challenge for cattle farmers?

- ▶ Cornerstone of the EU Animal Health Law project
  - ▶ Key point of French ECOANTIBIO 2017 plan
  - ▶ Difficult to implement in cattle farms (EU review)
    - ex: <12% dairy farmers implement quarantine (Belgium, Sarazin et al, 2014)
    - ex: <50% farmers implement double fences (Great Britain, Toma et al, 2013)
    - blockers: open premises, working routine and attitude (France, Frappat et al, 2012)...
  - ▶ Issues to investigate to instigate the progress:
    - Cattle farmers' motivations and expectations
    - Practical solutions and innovation
- ➔ to find out means and ends of improvement

## Advisory board



## Steering board



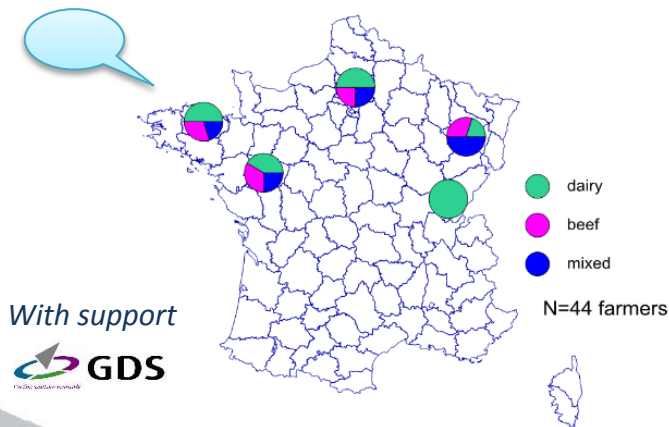
## Funding



# Objectives: better understanding

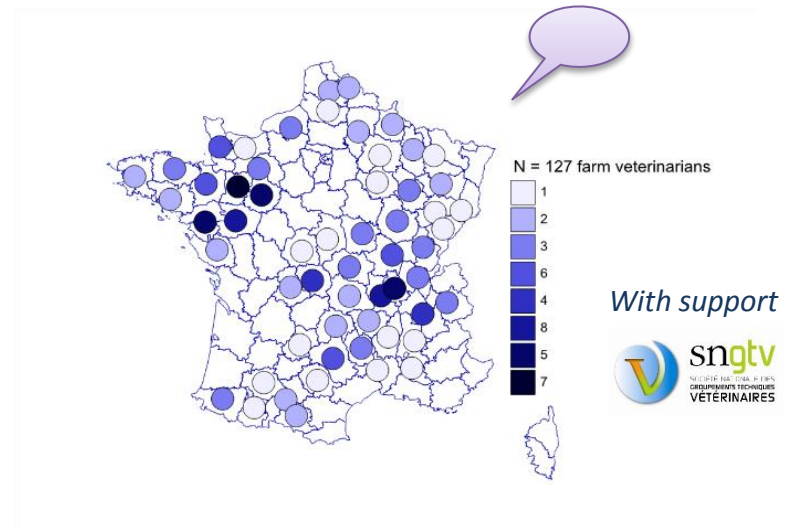
## 44 Face-to-face interviews of farmers

- April/June 2014
- Indirect then direct questions: knowledge, attitude, needs...



## Online survey of 127 farm vets

- May/June 2015
- Direct open questions to collect innovative farmers practices, tips and tricks...



to find out ways of progress

# Farmers' attitude

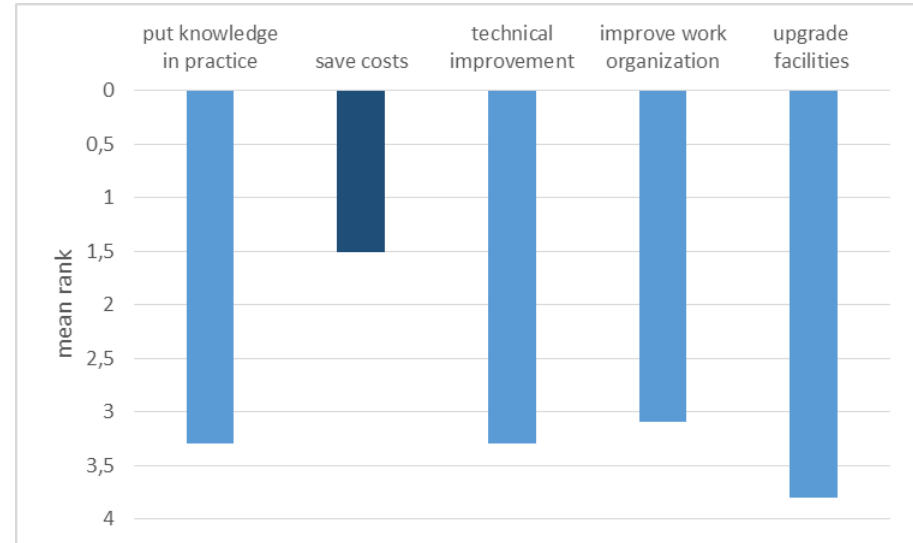
Never had any problem: why would I change anything?

I would improve to reduce vet costs

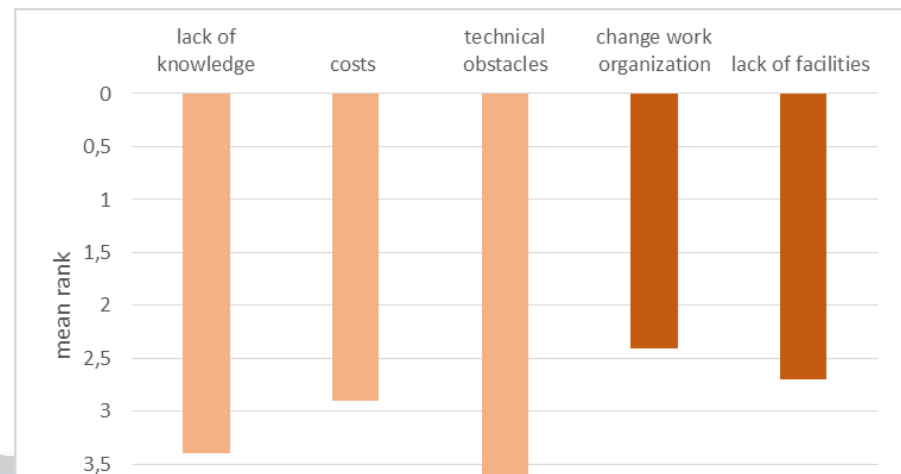
How can I do better with existing premises?

Can I change my usual way of doing?  
Will my colleagues change also?

- ▶ Economy is the first **motivation** of farmers for biosecurity



- ▶ but work habits and lack of facilities is often an **obstacle**



# Farmers' opinions

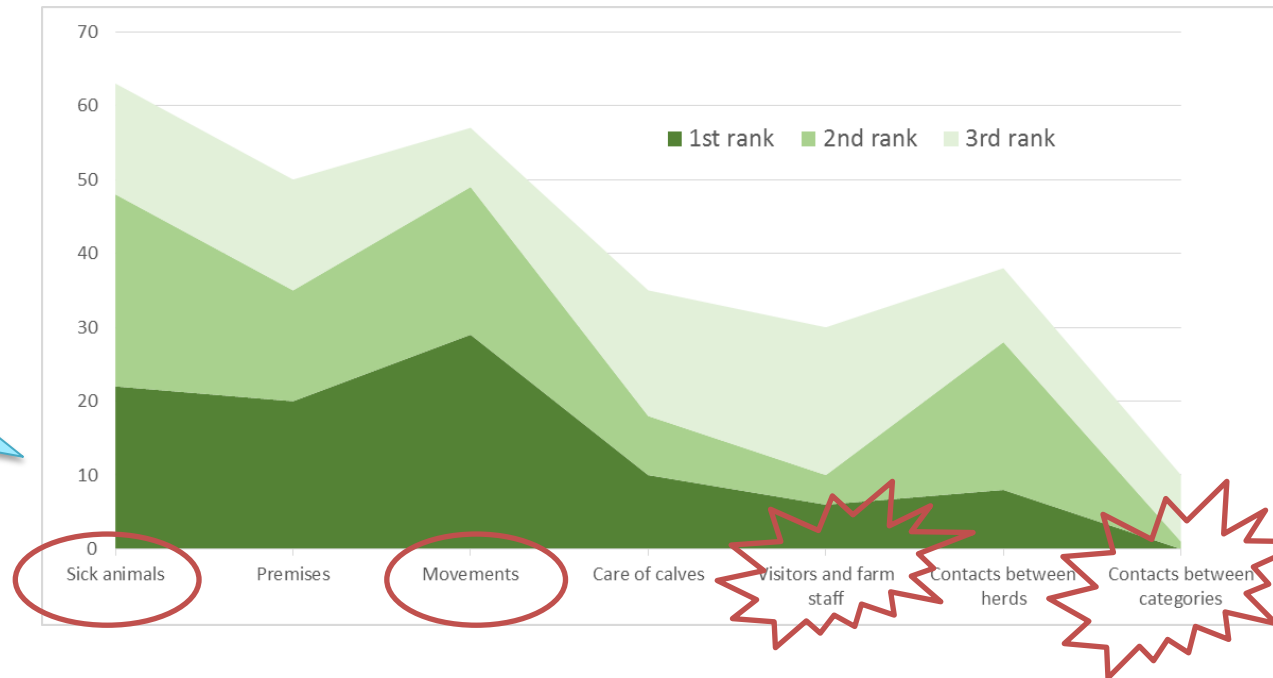
If I had a problem, I would improve

If my fellow farmers had a problem, I would consider improving

If a colleague improves, I may try myself

But not so easy to talk about health problems with colleagues

- Two key points for biosecurity: secure cattle movements and safe management of sick animals



- Colleagues' experience can be incentive to improve
- To improve alone is useless: neighbors, vets, retailers...
- Need practical solutions, innovation

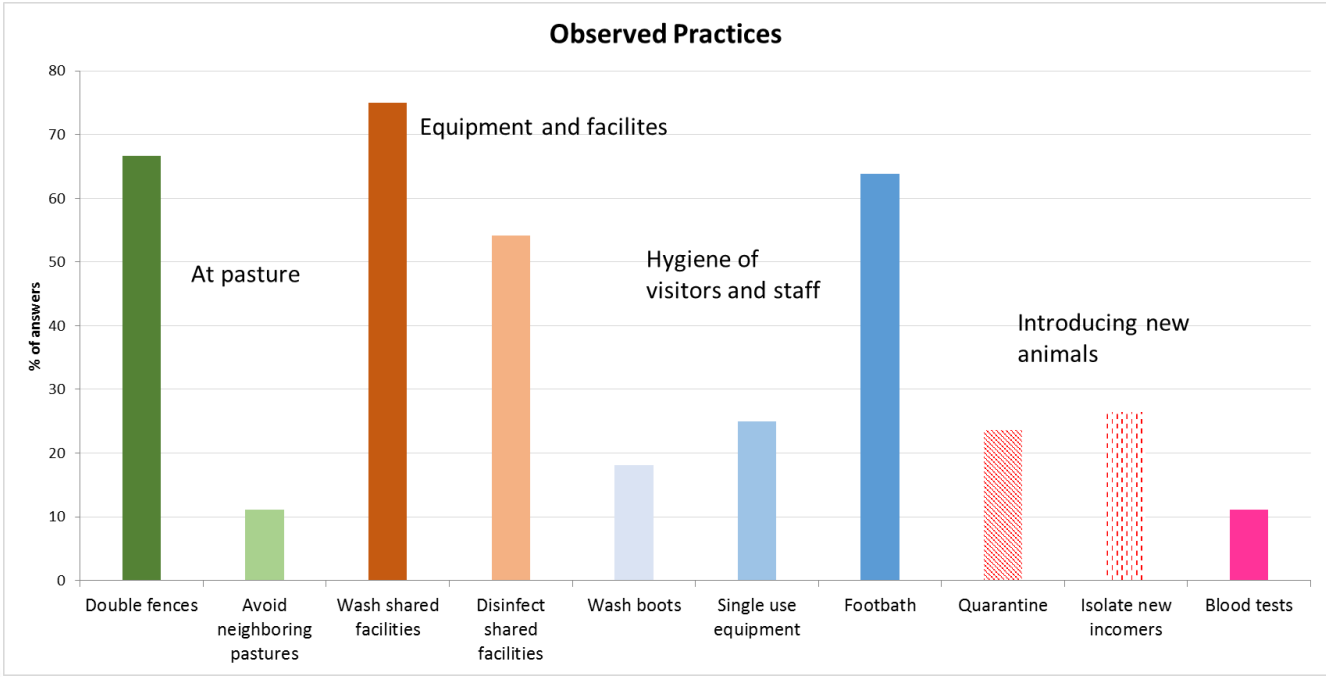
# Vets opinion: as many attitudes as farmers... and changing in time

Some efforts when problems occur to them or close enough

Footbath: can be a danger rather than a solution...

Single-use equipment: often a vet initiative

- Some efforts (56% of answers) ... often later abandoned by farmers because no visible impact



- Little innovation: what was recommended (by vets or technicians) or what was sold to farmers or what neighbors use.
- Few tips and tricks: work organization

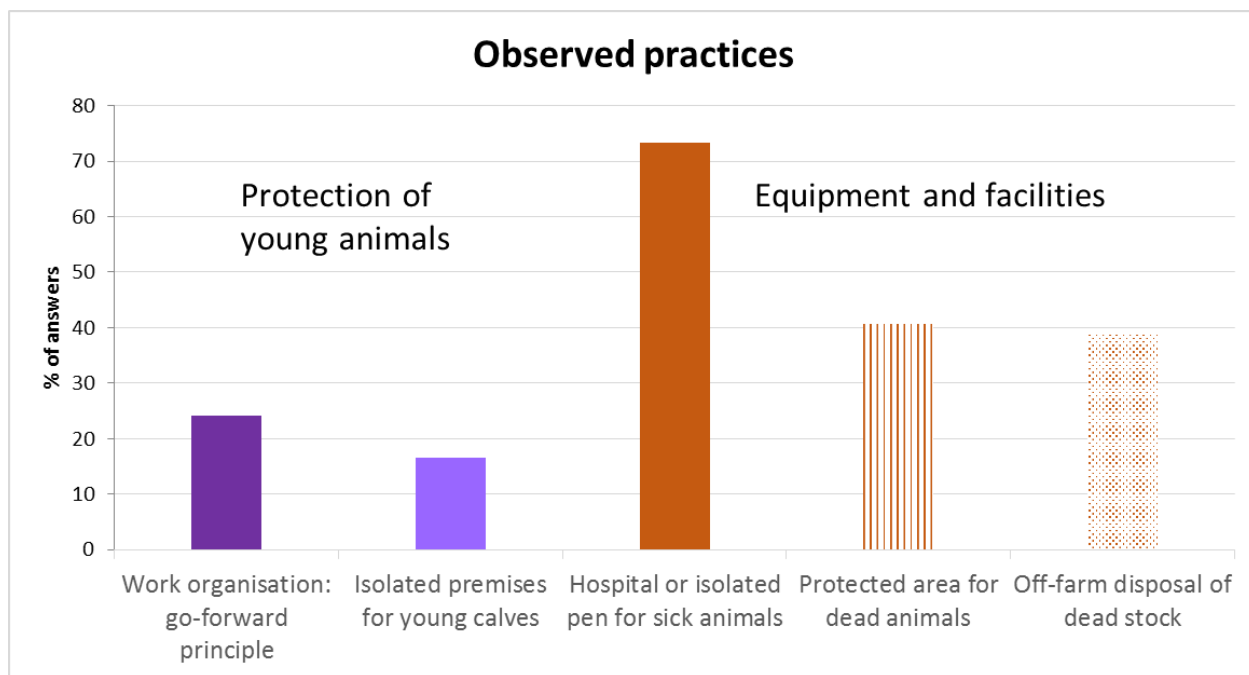
# For Vets, progress may be gained in the prevention of intra-herd contamination (internal biosecurity)

- Farmers mainly focus on emergency situations : sick and dead animals

Isolation of sick animals: still some progress...

Precaution in colostrum use, milking order of sick cows: still rare

Farmers are not fully aware of intra-herd risks...



- Prevention on contamination between categories: nothing to report in 60% of vets answers...

# Perspectives: ways to progress

## ► Issues to heighten awareness of cattle farmers

- Cost/benefits of biosecurity → *to be further explored? Not so easy...*
- Building and facilities: one key point → *in progress: French Guides of recommendations to better design and manage cattle housing in relation with health prevention*
- Work organization: another key point → *closely related to attitudes and to systems*

## ► Promote biosecurity by all possible means

- Introduce biosecurity as a “new” topic of discussion between vets and famers
- make better use of technician-farmer relationship
- **Organize farmer groups to share experiences → “innovation brokers”, “think tank”...**
- **Large scale communication campaign to change attitudes first ... then practices**

## ► Ways to improve

- Improve together
- Include Biosecurity in Quality Scheme
- Develop innovation

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More relevant in pig farming

Maybe some global health management

Don't know exactly...



**Biosecurity**  
≠ biosafety



## Thank you for your attention

### Advisory board



**anses**  
agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire  
alimentation, environnement, travail



### Steering board



### Funding



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RÉDUIRE L'UTILISATION DES  
ANTIBIOTIQUES VÉTÉRINAIRES

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*We wish to thank the farmers and the veterinarians who contributed to the interviews and to the survey.*

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