

Membership of herd health and retailer schemes associated with greater compliance at Defra animal welfare inspections

CCA Clark, R Crump, AL KilBride, LE Green

School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick, UK
corinna.clark@warwick.ac.uk

BACKGROUND

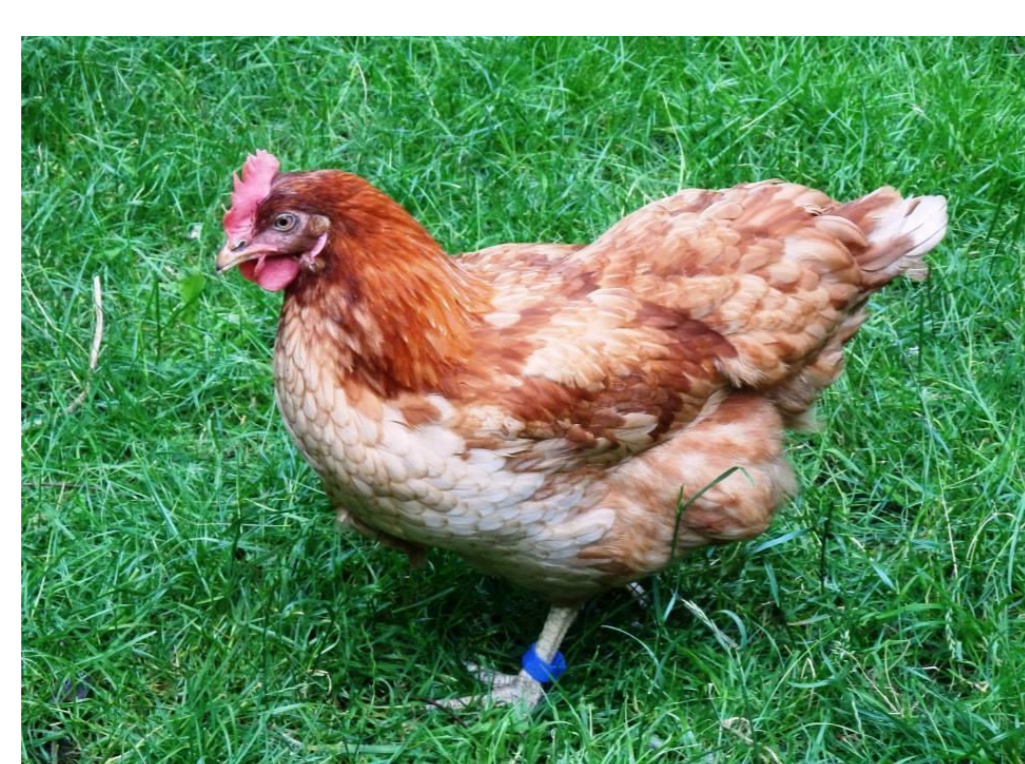
- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) inspect GB farms for compliance with welfare legislation and codes
- UK & EU drive to reduce inspections to compliant farmers, i.e. target inspections to farms more likely to fail welfare inspections & reduce inspections to farms more likely to pass using **risk-based selection**
- Previous study¹ - Farm assurance (FA) and organic certification (OC) scheme members twice as likely to comply with legislation at inspection compared with farmers not known to be members

Consultation 2011, Defra, Scottish, and Welsh Govt.² test inclusion of....

- Compliance at non-welfare inspections by **paying agencies** (Rural Payments Agency, Rural Payments Wales, & Scottish Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate)
- Membership of other schemes, e.g. herd / flock health, milk recording
- Abattoir data – ante and post mortem conditions reported to Food Standards Agency (FSA)

AIMS

- Do previous relationships with FA/OC still exist?
- Can risk-based selection be improved with other criteria?



MATERIALS AND METHODS

54,201 inspections to 11,800 farms between 2007 and 2013
Matched with data from schemes, paying agencies and FSA
Outcome variable = compliant or non-compliant at inspection
Used 4-level mixed effects binomial logistic regression model

Association between scheme membership and compliance with welfare legislation at inspection by APHA

Adjusted for repeated inspections to enterprise, within farm, within county, accounting for factors affecting compliance, including enterprise type (e.g. sheep, dairy, growing pigs), enterprise size, year, inspection reason.

Scheme type	Odds ratio*	Confidence Interval
FA	1.77	1.59 – 1.96
OC	2.05	1.43 – 2.93
HH	1.82	1.49 – 2.23

*Odds Ratio >1 indicates increased risk of compliance compared with not being in such a scheme

RESULTS

9/10 farm assurance, 5/6 organic certified, 1 retailer, 5/7 herd health schemes, 2/3 milk recording schemes provided data

- ✓ FA and OC members 2-fold increase in compliance
- ✓ HH and retailer scheme members also 2-fold increase in compliance
- ✗ No link with compliance at non-welfare inspections by paying agencies
- ✗ Insufficient matching to include FSA data

Recommend addition of membership of herd health and retailer schemes, along with membership of FA and OC schemes, to model used to select farms for risk-based inspections to reduce the burden of inspection by APHA on farms likely to be compliant with welfare legislation

