

## Bird flu is not passed on to chickens via the air

The risk of airborne transmission of the highly pathogenic avian flu virus from wild birds to poultry in a barn is virtually zero, conclude researchers at Wageningen Bioveterinary Research. Previous experience showed that the bird flu virus can spread through the air from farm to farm if it is produced in large quantities by substantial numbers of infected chickens in a barn. But it was not known how great the risk is of airborne transmission from infected wild birds. The researchers looked specifically at the transmission via the droppings of wild waterfowl in the vicinity of poultry barns. They also assessed the risk of transmission of the flu virus via aerosols that are released when infected wild waterfowl breathe out or snort. It turns out that the risk of infected droppings or aerosols entering the barn via the air inlets is negligible.

Info: [armin.elbers@wur.nl](mailto:armin.elbers@wur.nl)

