

# Session on Zoonoses COPA-COGECA Annette TOFT

*EFSA Stakeholders Consultative Platform  
29<sup>th</sup> Of June, Parma*

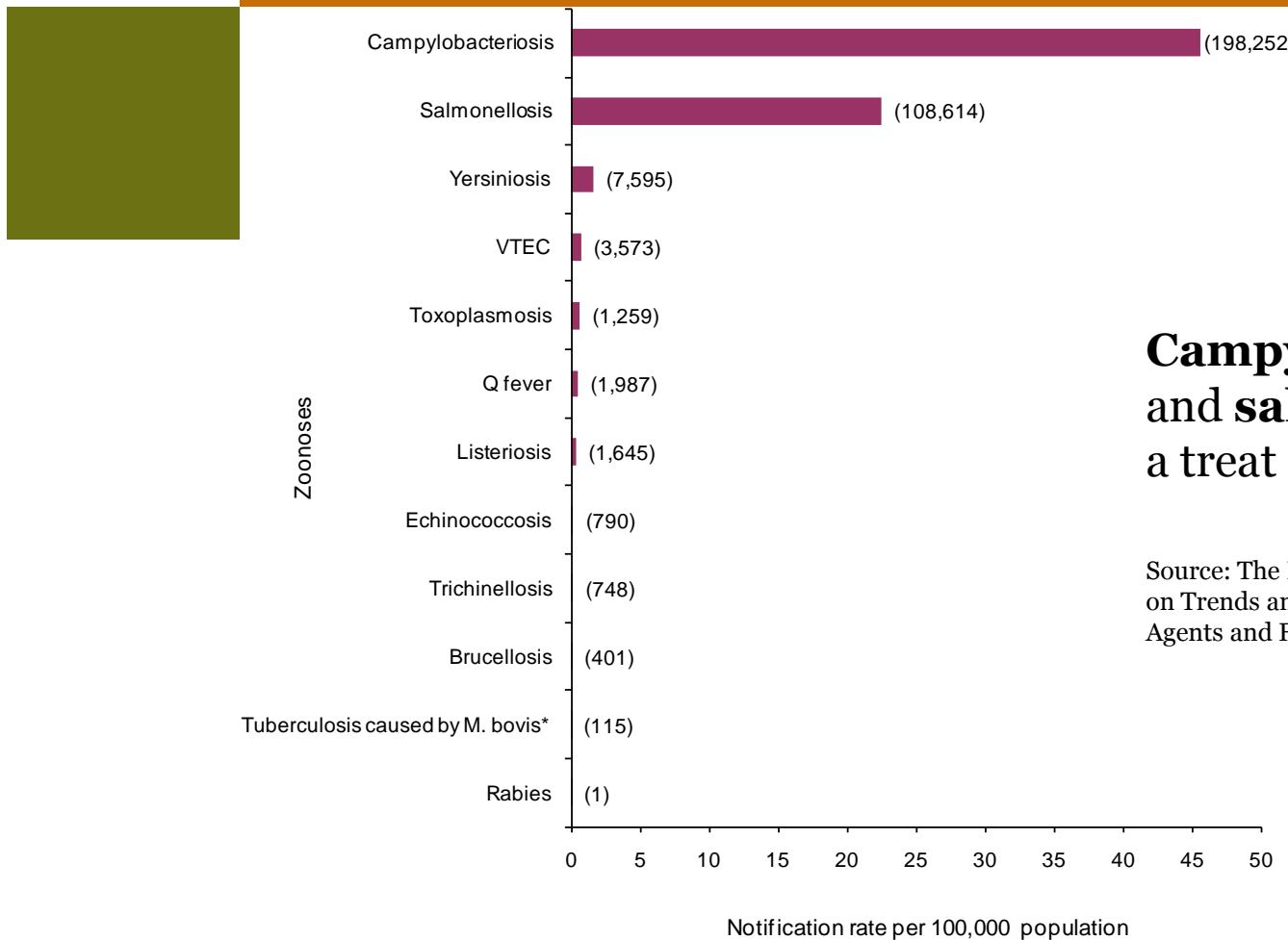
# Outline of the presentation

- Relevance of zoonoses questions to farmers and agri-cooperatives activities
- Main challenges
- Copa-Cogeca's interest in the EFSA Biological Hazard Unit
- General remarks on the EFSA scientific communication
- EFSA communication on microbiological risk in feedingstuffs

# Relevance of zoonoses questions to farmers and agri-cooperatives activities

- Zoonoses are diseases or infections naturally transmissible directly or indirectly between animals and humans.
- There are more than 200 zoonoses caused by all types of bacteria, parasites, fungi, and viruses.
- 70% of human infections diseases are of zoonotic origin
- These may potentially represent a treat to humans (EUSRs, 2009): *270 human deaths due to listeriosis, 90 deaths due to salmonellosis and 40 deaths due to campylobacteriosis*

# Human zoonoses cases and notification rates in the EU



**Campylobacteriosis** and **salmonellosis** still a treat for humans in EU

Source: The European Union Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2009

# Relevance of zoonoses questions to farmers and agri-cooperatives activities

- Animals play an essential role in zoonotic infections in nature
  - Most of the animals are taken care by farmers
- Transmission mostly through contaminated food/feedstuffs
  - This is a major issue for the operators involved in the food producing industry for products of animal origin

# (1) Main challenges

- **Preventing and controlling** zoonoses is even more critical today in the context of:
  - globalization of trade,
  - changes in agricultural practices and
  - global warming

These are relevant risk factors for emergence, spread and persistence of zoonoses

- **delimit routes of transmissions** from animals to humans
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## (2) Main challenges

- Strong reliance on **science based assessment** of zoonotic risks
  - Key role played by EFSA in public health protection
  - Need for quick response and risk based measures to be carried out at any level: consumers, producers and risk managers
- **Maintaining consumers' confidence** in the safety and quality of the European primary food/feed production **is a priority**
  - As FBO, farmers and agri-coops are primarily responsible for ensuring the safety of the products they place on the market.
  - Promotion of good hygiene practices as a tool to achieve such objectives.

# Copa-Cogeca's main interests in the EFSA Biological Hazard Unit

## **BSE and TSE's:**

- Monitoring regimes
- Genetic TSE resistance in goats
- TSE tests

## **Other Food-borne zoonoses:**

- *Salmonella* in turkeys, poultry and pigs
- *Campylobacter* in poultry
- Antimicrobial resistance

## **Food Hygiene and microbiology:**

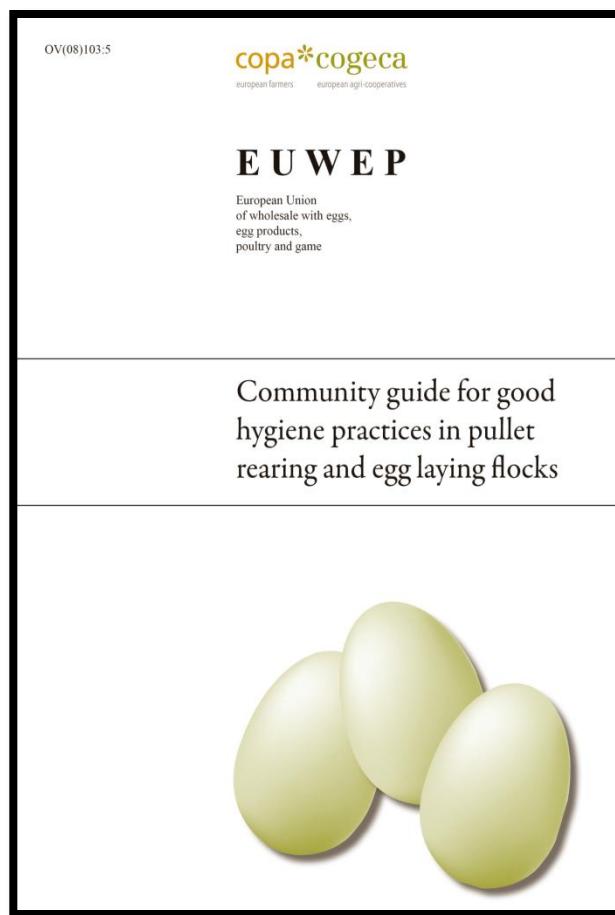
- Decontamination of food of animal origin
- Risk based meat inspections

# Copa-Cogeca relies on EFSA's outputs

**EFSA communications which have a major impact on our sector.**

- Scientific opinion on Campylobacter in broiler meat production, 2011
- Scientific opinion on Porcine Brucellosis (brucela suis), 2009
- EFSA updates EU scientific advice on listeria risk in ready-to-eat foods 2009
- EFSA report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents in the European Union in 2007: Listeria Prevalence 2007
- Scientific Opinion Microbiological risk assessment in feeding stuffs for food-producing animals (5 June 2008)

# Example of a Copa-Cogeca Guide of good hygiene practices



Community Guides for Good Hygiene Practices in

1. Pullet Rearing and Egg Laying Flocks;
2. Broilers;

They have been developed together with EUWEP and AVEC in accordance with Annex I and Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs.

# Improving EFSA scientific communication

- EFSA risk communication addressed mainly to risk managers. It is important to widen the scope to consider that this info is also useful for a broad range of stakeholders including consumers
- The scientific opinions are too restrictive. They only respond to the Commission's request without elaborating arising problems
- YES/NO approach of the Commission's request is not satisfactory to pursue complete and exhaustive RA
- Risk/benefit analysis is missing
- Practical experience is often missing;

# Improving EFSA scientific communication

- Farmers have a lot of “ field experience “ and this needs to be considered;
- Science is OK, but practicalities of decisions should be taken into account;
- Important to position EFSA at the forefront of risk assessment methodologies and practices also at international level (e.g. OECD, OIE etc);

# How should EFSA messages be rightly interpreted? a practical experience

“*Microbiological risk assessment in feedingstuffs*” (2008)

[Source: Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Biological Hazards on a request from DG Sanco, on Microbiological Risk Assessment in feedingstuffs for foodproducing animals. *The EFSA Journal* (2008) 720, 1-84] Question No EFSA-Q-2007-04

**What is the general message conveyed:**

“ The Panel on Biological Hazards identified “*Salmonella spp. as the major hazard for microbial contamination of animal feed* »

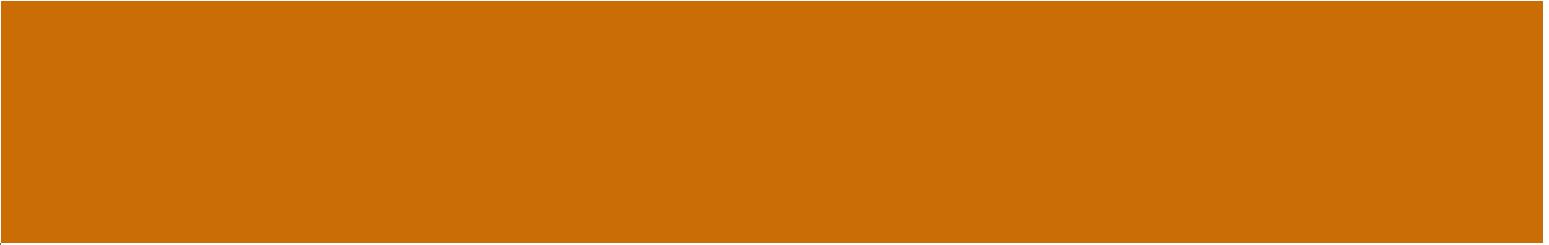
**However, other important aspects are highlighted:**

- The relative importance of different sources of *Salmonella* infections in animals varies according to the various countries.
- Need for quantify, the relative importance of feed as compared to other sources of *Salmonella* [...]

# How should EFSA messages be rightly interpreted? a practical experience

## Importance for European FBO to get the « right » message

- Need for reduction of Salmonella occurrences at the farm level, based on Good farming practices / Effective implementation of GMP/GHP procedures along the feed chain.
- Need for a “coordinated” approach so as to optimize the flow of information all along the feed chain.



Thank you!

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