The use of GIS in animal disease response

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Disease events

The **5W**'s of epidemiology:

- 1. What = health issue of concern
- 2. Who = animals
- 3. Where = location
- 4. When = time
- 5. Why/how = causes, risk factors, modes of transmission



Disease events



The spatial component of a disease outbreak has always been a basic element to **identify**, **describe..... characterize = control** a disease outbreak



- To identify the location of an outbreak
- To organise disease control operations (protection and surveillance zones, stamping out, vaccination,..)
- To characterise the area at risk of infection (e.g. DPLA)
- To elaborate the first hypothesis on the origin of the disease (e.g. wet area for AI)



- Farm code
- o Address
- Animal species

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Source:

Farm register database Ancillary maps (image, street maps)

- To identify the location of an outbreak
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ProceduresGIS tools

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• Procedures

 Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis

- To identify the location of an outbreak
- To organise disease control operations (protection and surveillance zones, stamping out, vaccination,..)
- To characterise the area at risk of infection (e.g. DPLA)
- To elaborate the first hypothesis on the origin of the disease (e.g. wet area for AI)

Ancillary data Satellite data





Historically the geographical component of an animal disease response was studied and managed using paper maps



Are procedures based on paper maps still of practical use?

YES = limited number of outbreaks



NO = many outbreaks

You MUST guarantee the enforcement of restrictions in areas at-risk for:

- disease control
- trade



Why an organisation should invest (money, time, commitment,) to build a GIS?





The technological component

WebGIS



Арр



Disease events

HPAI



Applications – AI Management – Preparedness

Step 1 – peace time: set up data, procedures and methods



Step 2: location of AI affected poultry farm



Step 3: Al affected poultry farm (data check)



Step 3: outbreak eradication

Field veterinarians

- Restrictions
- Stamping out measures
- Disposal of carcasses
- Cleansing and disinfection





Step 4: protection zone



675154,129 5016736,341 Meters

<u>Step 5</u>: surveillance zone



673237,688 5004394,458 Meters

Applications – Al Management

<u>Step 6</u>: identification of further restricted zones



Step 7: list of poultry farms within the restricted areas



Step 7: list of poultry farms within the areas – data export

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Step 7: restriction zones

Epi-group

- Identification of poultry farms at risk of neighborhood spread
- Surveillance (inspection and testing,....)
- Planning eradication actions (buffer vaccination, pre-empty killing,..)



Step 7: restriction zones

Field veterinarians

- Surveillance
- Enforcement of restriction and eradication measures





Application – Eradication of sylvatic rabies

In Europe red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) are the reservoir of rabies

Sylvatic rabies has been eradicated from many EU countries by means of vaccination using live attenuated vaccines (oral rabie

Italy had been rabies free since 1995

Application – Eradication of sylvatic rabies



Application – Eradication of sylvatic rabies



Application - Aerial distribution of vaccine baits







Application – Sylvatic rabies

GIS use in planning an ORV:

Precise definition of the vaccination area - suitability

- Zones with low or high fox densities
- Zones where baits could not be dropped (cities, ...)
- Areas below the average freezing point (threshold = $0^{\circ}C$)



Application – Sylvatic rabies

GIS use in planning an ORV:

Optimal flight paths for the helicopter



Application - Aerial distribution of vaccine baits

- Aerial distribution by helicopters, using a satellitenavigated and computer-supported automatic bait dropping system
- An electronic metronome connected to a GPS allowed the regular dropping of baits (density/km²) and recorded the coordinates where the baits were dropped



Application - Aerial distribution of vaccine baits



Satellite-navigated computer supported automatic system

- Constant and homogeneous release of baits
- Precise localization of each dropped bait (recorded on a file)
- Maps with the precise bait distribution

Application – Evaluation of vaccine bait distribution



Application – Evaluation of vaccine bait distribution



Monthly number of infected foxes – 2010



Historically the geographical component of an animal disease response was managed using paper maps

Currently the **technology** to implement a GIS is readily available (with limited investment)

Know-how for GIS use in the veterinary sector is well established in order to build a GIS infrastructure tailored to your needs and organization

online course

The Use of GIS

in animal disease response

An empirical approach for the implementation of a GIS project to capture, manage and analyse spatial data related to disease events





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