



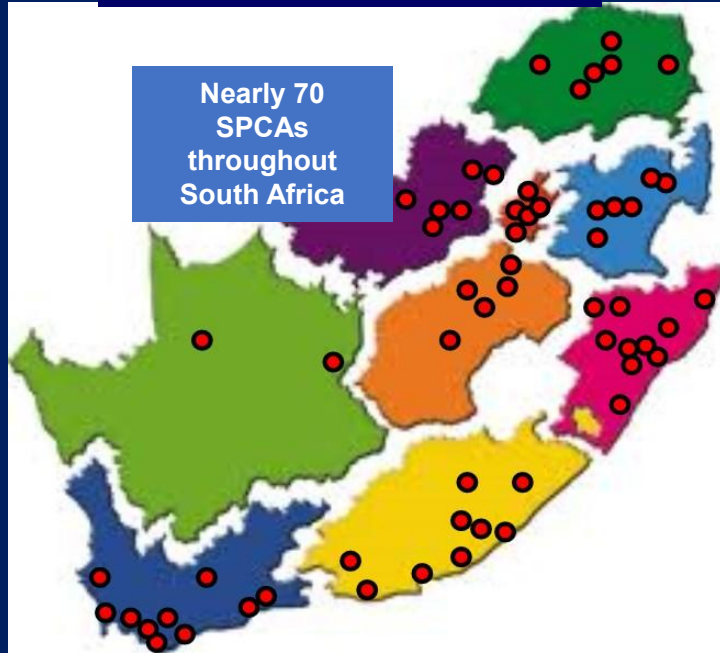
# National Council of SPCAs

## **Culling for the purpose of disease control**

***Dr Bryce Marock***

# NSPCA Overview

## Local SPCAs



## National SPCA

### National Animal Protection, Law Enforcement & Training

#### 6 Specialised Operational Units

- Farm Animal Protection Unit
- Wildlife Protection Unit
- Special Projects Unit
- Society Liaison Unit
- Training Unit
- Special Investigation Unit



National Council of SPCAs

[www.nspca.co.za](http://www.nspca.co.za)

# FACTORY FARMING

- **1930s intensive farming begins**
- **Veterinary profession assists in the growth**
- **Many animals kept together in unnatural conditions**
- **Antibiotics and other antimicrobials “keep birds alive” from the 1940s**
- **For the next 80 years little attention paid to mass culling**



# POULTRY CULLING

- **Poultry and pigs most complicated**
- **In the experience of the NSPCA, poultry is infinitely more difficult**
- **NSPCA has culled 100s of 1000s during individual disease outbreaks of both**
- **Farms may have 250 000-500 000 (all sizes of birds)**
- **Have to lift and manually kill**
- **Resistance by industry to implement humane and practical systems**
- **Industry in South Africa have tried inhumane methods**
- **Globally inhumane methods are practiced**

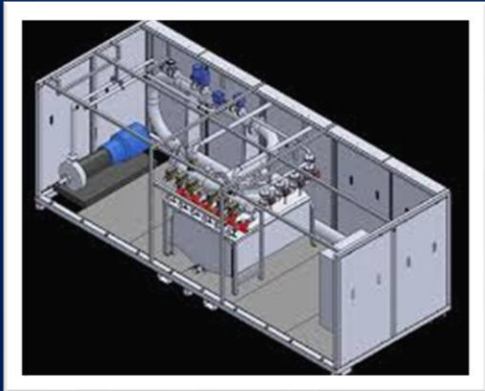


# What have we been doing?



# NITROGEN FOAMING

- **High expansive nitrogen foam- Gold standard**
- **NOT FIREFIGHTING FOAM (causes choking and not freely available anyway)**
- **Birds do not detect nitrogen (walk towards it and into it)**
- **Simply lose consciousness (plane decompression)**
- **Nitrogen is the cheapest of all gases**
- **Challenge is capital equipment to produce the foam**
- **Pre-planning is essential**



# WHOLE HOUSE GASSING

- Is relatively quick
- Gas is aversive and causes **pain** and **suffering**
- If bona fide experts carry it out, welfare may be improved
- In most cases, veterinarians and engineers fail at even **making it work**
- Houses have to be sealed
- It is for high houses (caged birds to top of house)
- Gas not readily available (beer and soda industry)
- UK has run out middle in the middle of an outbreak!
- Not recommended unless companies like Livetec (UK) carry it out



# CONTAINERIZED GASSING UNITS



- **Viable solution**
- **Not cheap (Argon gas)**
- **Large producer in South Africa uses (NSPCA intervention)**
- **Preparation essential (sealed container, gas supply and trained staff)**
- **Containers not too big but too small (several required)**
- **Humane (Argon undetectable)**
- **Not cheap but not as labour intensive as manual culling**



# MANUAL CULLING

- **Cervical dislocation vs Hands only vs cutting necks**
- **Time constraints**
- **Labour intensive (physically and emotionally)**
- **Trained staff neccessary**
- **Big birds can have strong necks and cockerels aggressive**
- **Injuries common to hands, back, eyes and**
- **Birds suffer due to the time taken to get to them (up to 10 days)**
- **Only solution if no preparation.**



# ASSISTANCE WITH CERVICAL DISLOCATION (CD)

- **NEX hand held**
- **Possible to carry out CD up to 5kg**
- **Unlimited numbers for culling EU 1099/2009 standard**
- **Training is required**
- **Staff that are competent in handling birds essential**
- **Benefit is that bigger birds can be culled and more without injury to workers**
- **Still limited for 100s of 1000s of birds unless having 400+ able bodied workers**
- **Price moderately high- 50 pounds UK each**



# Cutting

- **Pre-stunning vital**
- **If farmer not prepared for culling (likely)**
- **Cut through from below (severing is safer)**
- **Sharp knives with dedicated sharpeners**
- **Competent authorities (state vets) do not like blood in the sheds**
- **State must understand that “stamping out” is necessary**
- **Birds are shedding millions of virus particles while alive**
- **Houses will be disinfected**
- **Longer culling takes more virus shed and animals suffer until death**



# POOR PLANNING

- **Universal globally with some exceptions (e.g. UK)**
- **Nobody knows what to do when it happens**
- **Animals suffer**
- **Disease proliferates**
- **Too late to implement practical methods**
- **Ineffective and cruel methods employed**



# RESPONSIBILTIES

- **Producers earn money off the enterprise**
- **Producers not relieved of responsibility when they are dying (unbelievable misconception)**
- **Governments may provide support**
- **Producers must have contingency plan**
- **An 80 year conundrum to factory farming**



## WHAT DO WE DO?

- **Awareness of animal suffering and human wellbeing**
- **Legislative processes**
- **Litigation**
- **Pressure on producers and retailers**
- **Organisational education**
- **Good relationships with service providers (e.g. Livetec)**
- **NOTE THE NSPCA HAS NO FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH LIVETEC**
- **We have had successes with producers utilizing their services**



**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPCAs**



**Questions?**

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