



TAFS

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR

TRANSMISSIBLE ANIMAL DISEASES & FOOD SAFETY

# Global Trends and Emerging Issues in Animal Health and Food Safety

CIES International Food Safety Conference  
Amsterdam, February 15, 2008

Dr. Ulrich Sperling  
The TAFS Forum

# Shopping list

5 million beef steaks

12 million pork chops

80 tons of ham

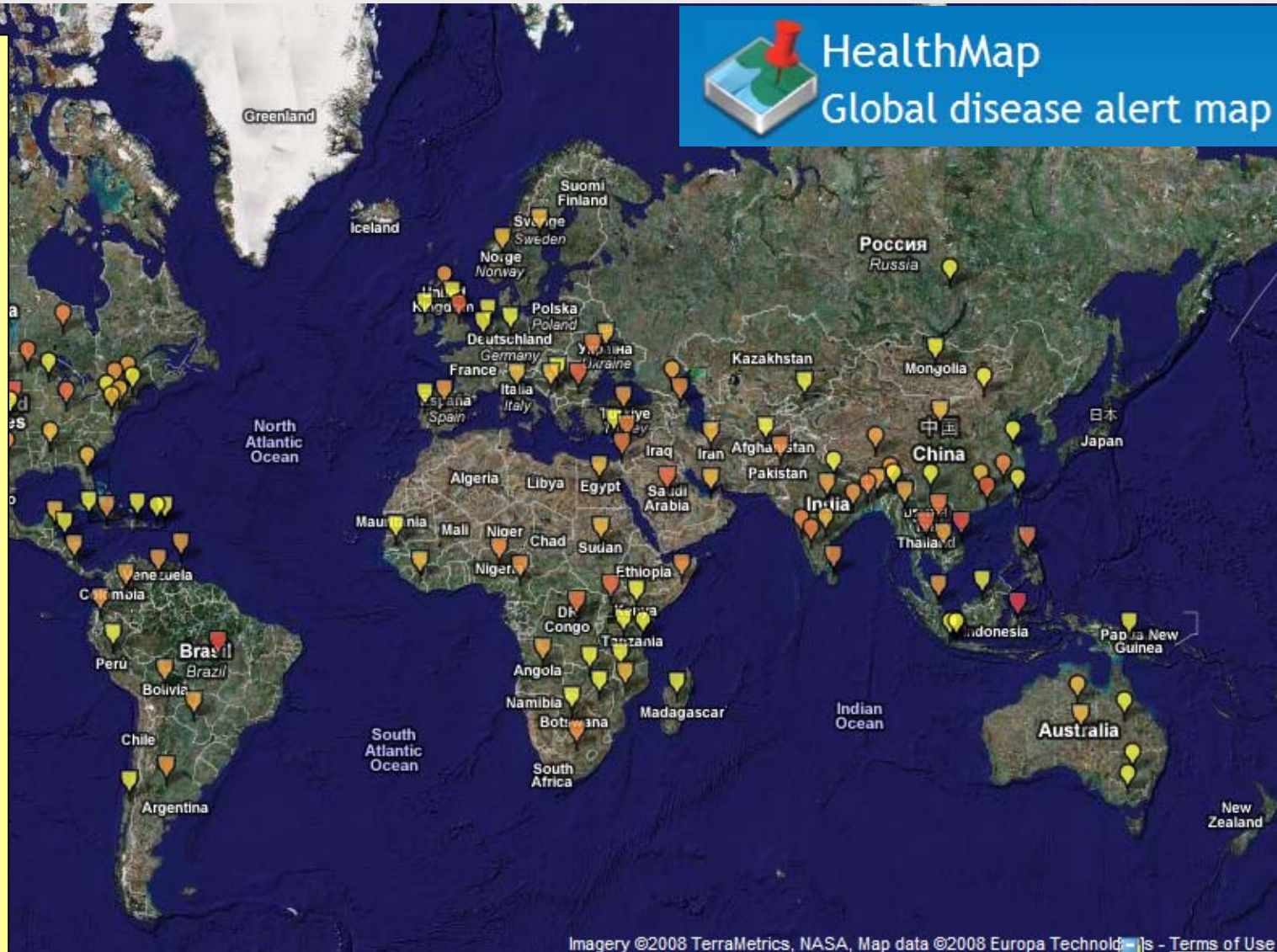
30 million broilers

400'000 turkeys

Where do you go shopping with such a list? Is there a place where you won't have to worry about animal health and food safety?

# 30 days worth of animal disease outbreak

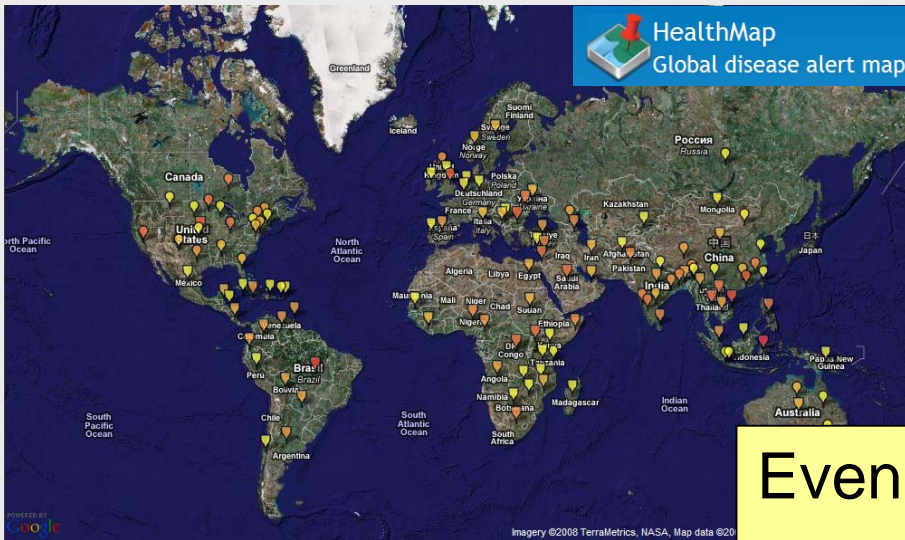
There are so many disease alerts coming in from almost everywhere that it is not easy to keep track of them. No place seems to be entirely safe.



# We have a problem. Or not?

## What we know:

30 days worth of animal disease outbreak

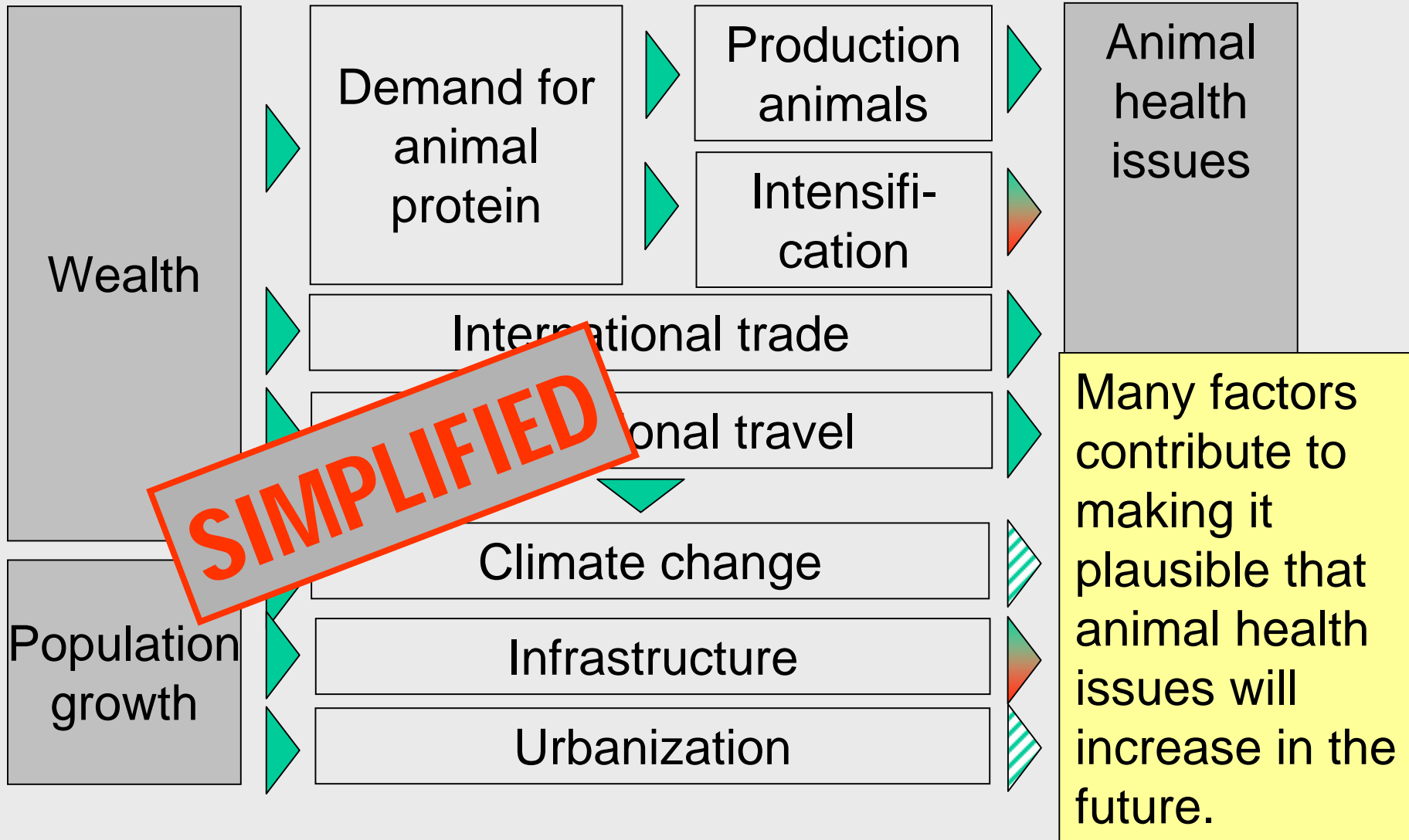


## What we don't know:

- Global reporting of animal diseases is
- Incomplete
  - Not enforced
  - Biased
  - Not verified

Even the best sources of information on countries' animal disease status cannot give an exhaustive overview. Much uncertainty remains, even with regard to the present, not to mention the future.

# Animal health issues will increase. Probably.

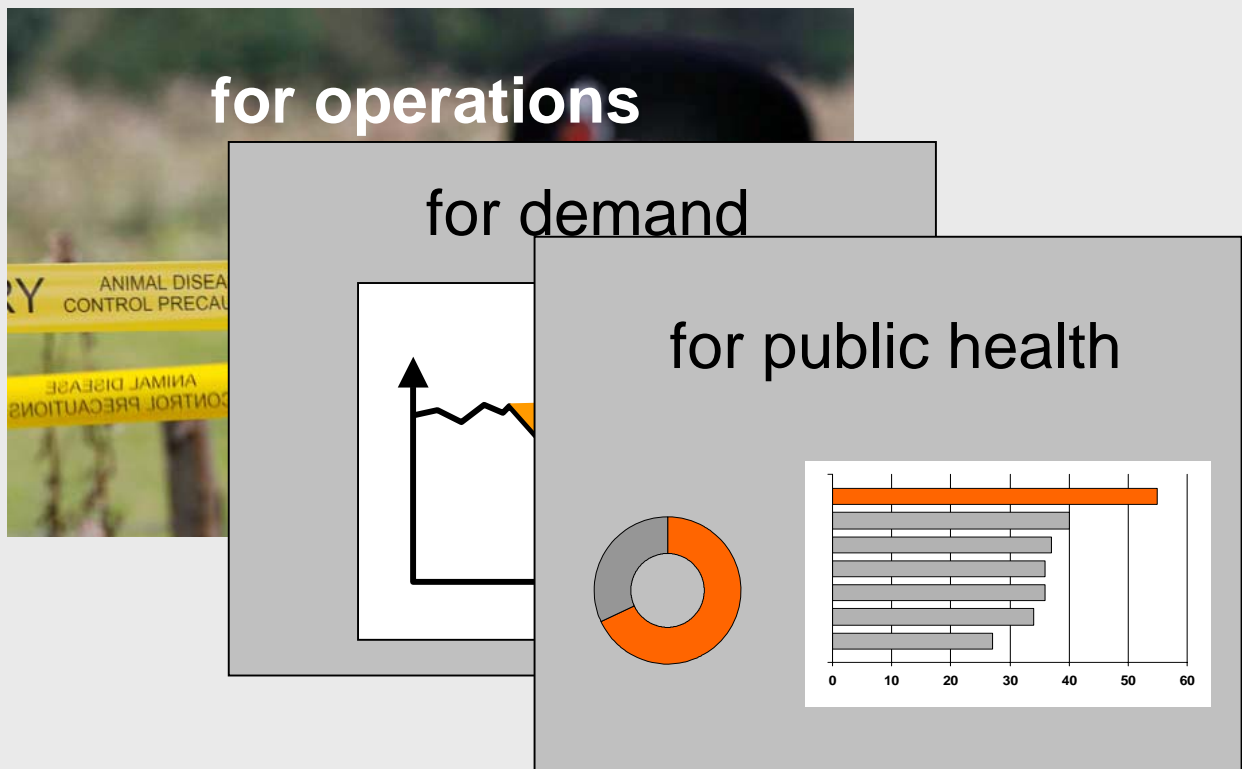


# Animal disease outbreaks are costly:

BSE UK 1996/97:	3.1 bio €
FMD Taiwan 97:	5.4 bio €
CSF NL 97/98:	1.9 bio €
FMD UK 2001:	9.4 bio €

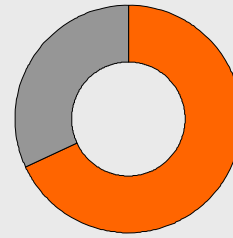
Prevention is almost certainly cheaper.

## and risky:



In addition, there are other strong reasons to try and prevent outbreaks rather than dealing with them.

68% of emerging human pathogens are zoonotic.



They are mostly transmitted through food.

**Transmission route**

Food-borne

Direct contact

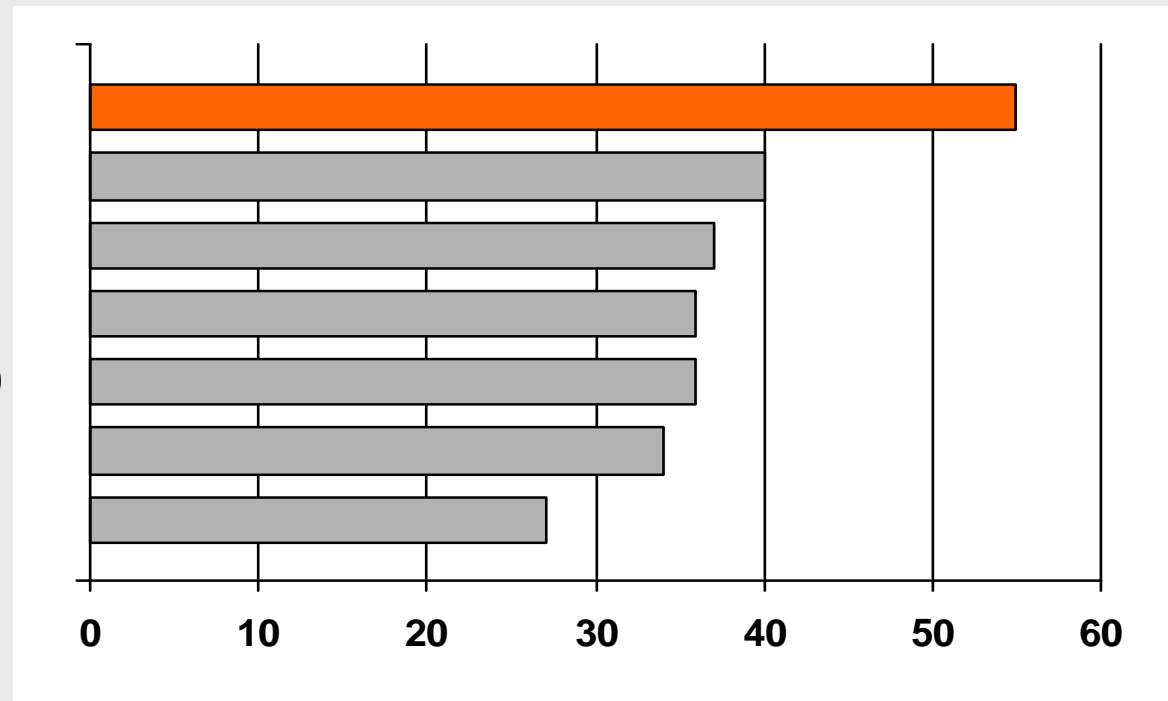
Faecal-oral

Water-borne

Vector-borne (dipteran)

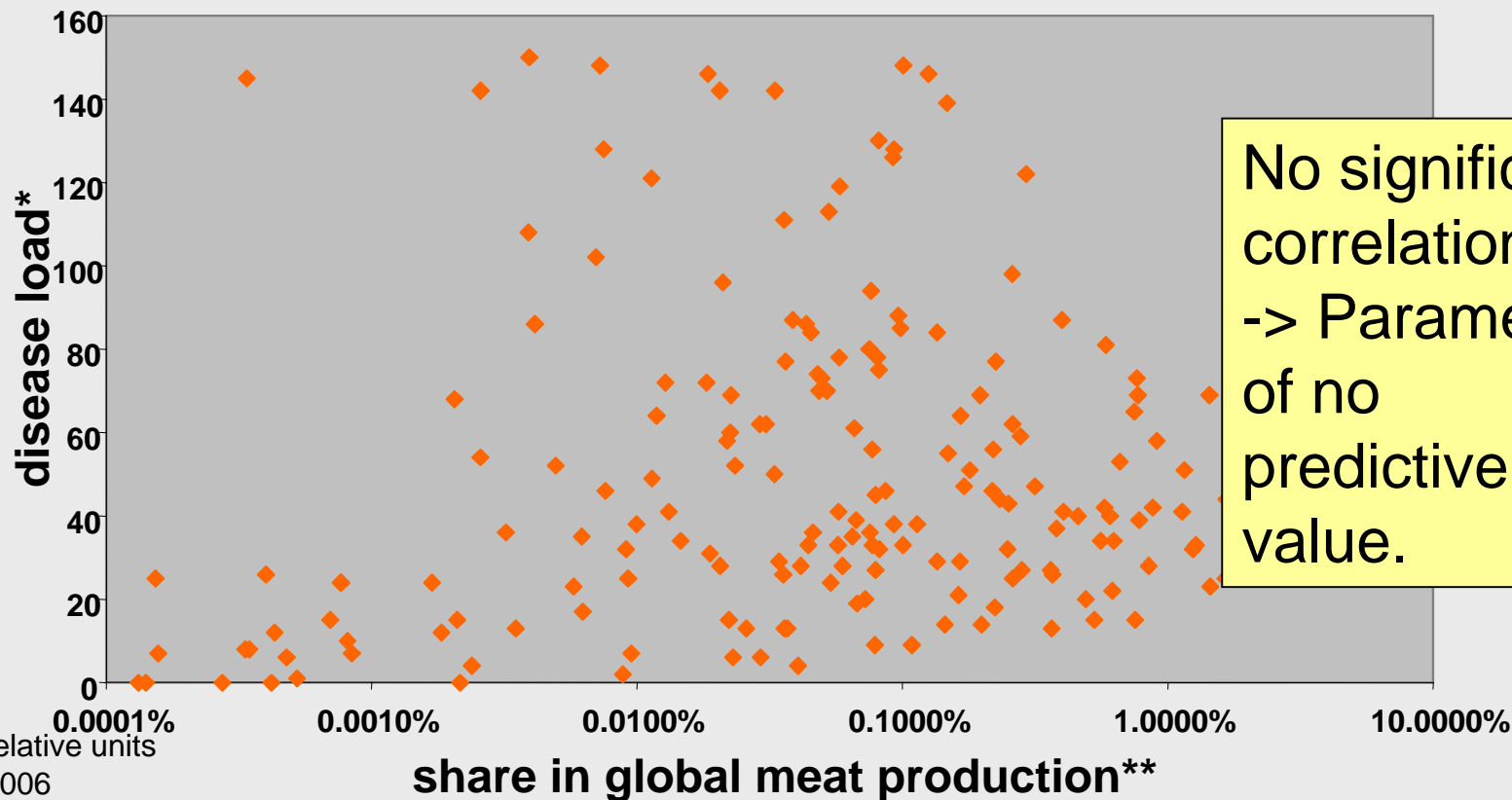
Aerosol (inhalation)

Soil and/or vegetation  
(and others)



# So, where do you go in search of healthy animals?

- To the large producers. Or to the small ones? **NO**  
◆ Country

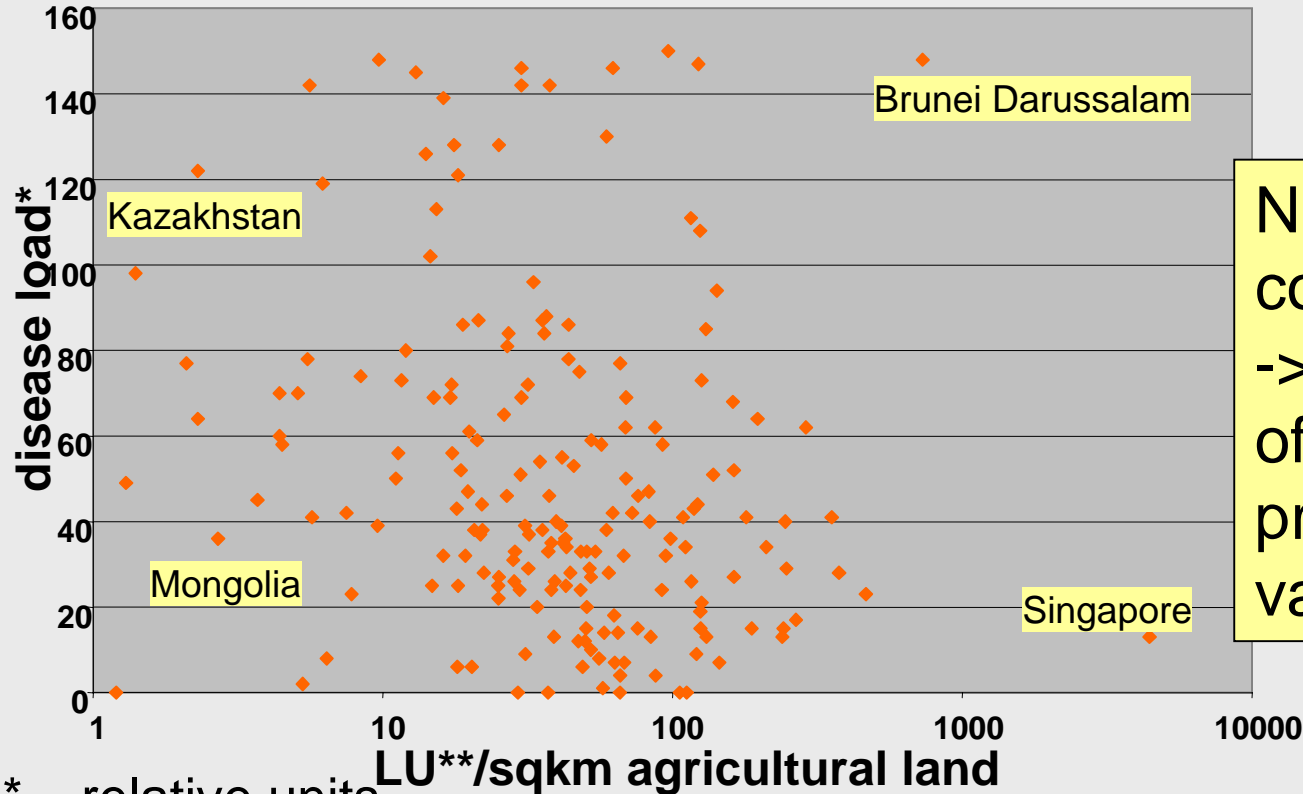


# So, where do you go in search of healthy animals?

- To the large producers. Or to the small ones?
- To the loose herds. Or to the dense ones?

NO

NO



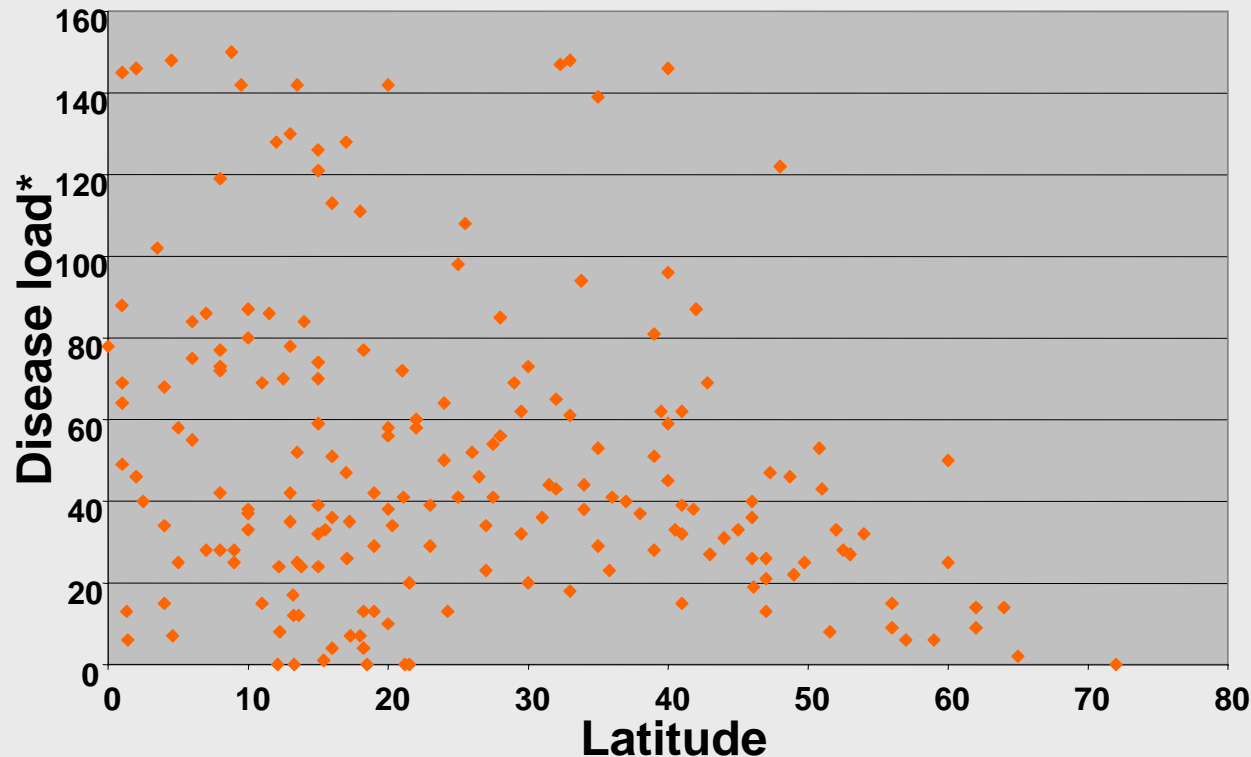
No significant correlation.  
-> Parameter of no predictive value.

\* relative units

\*\* Livestock unit

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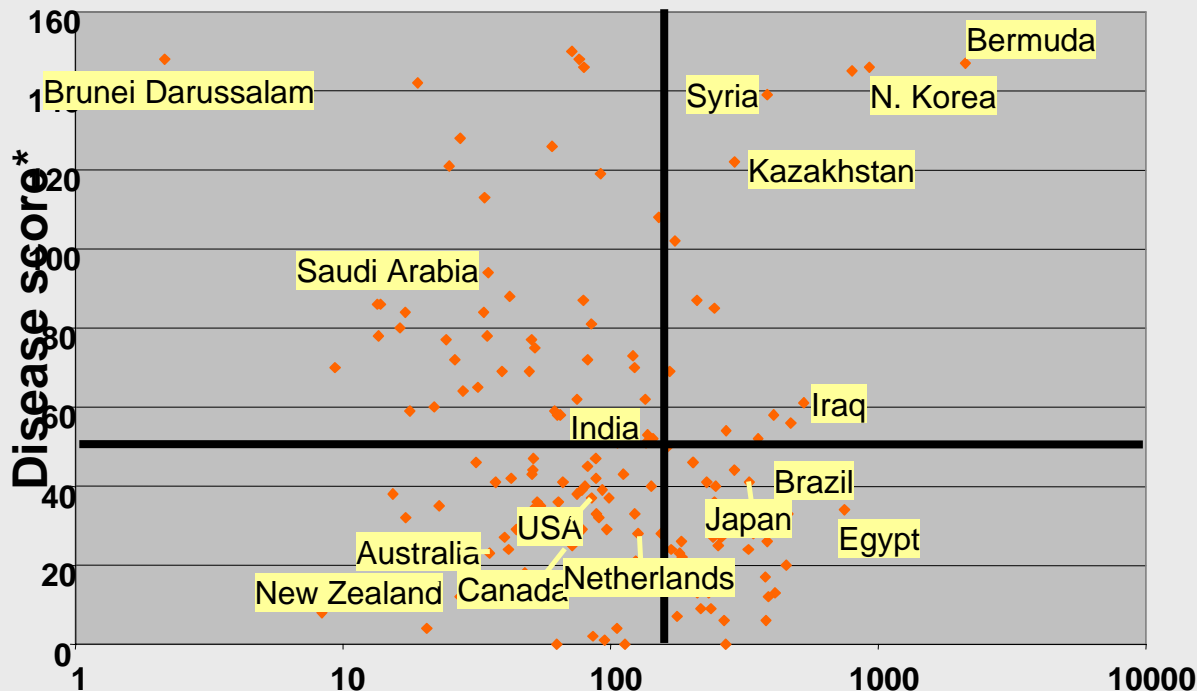
- To the large producers. Or to the small ones? **NO**
- To the loose herds. Or to the dense ones? **NO**
- To the non-tropical countries. Or to the tropics? **NO**



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- To the large producers. Or to the small ones? **NO**
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- To the non-tropical countries. Or to the tropics? **NO**
- To where the vets are? **NO**

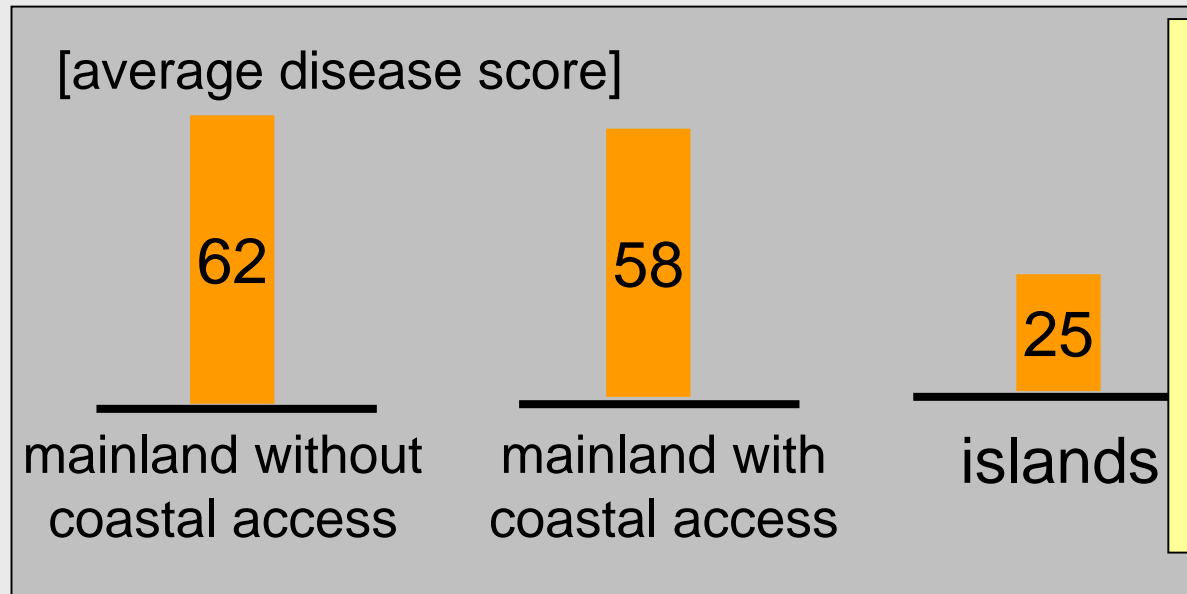


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Veterinarians and veterinary technicians per 100'000 livestock units

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- To the loose herds. Or to the dense ones? **NO**
- To the non-tropical countries. Or to the tropics? **NO**
- To where the vets are? **NO**
- To a far away little island? **YES**

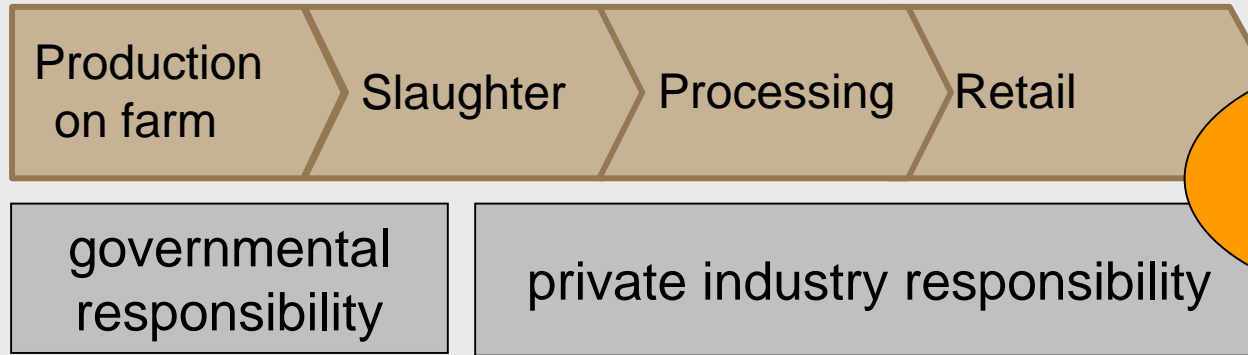


Islands are significantly better of in terms of animal health. But there are not enough of them for global sourcing.

# There is no safe haven. Unless we build one.

3 ½ reasons to get involved in preventive animal health:

1



why would that be logical?

2

There is no alternative.

The state cannot have its eyes everywhere.  
(See EC White Paper on Food Safety).

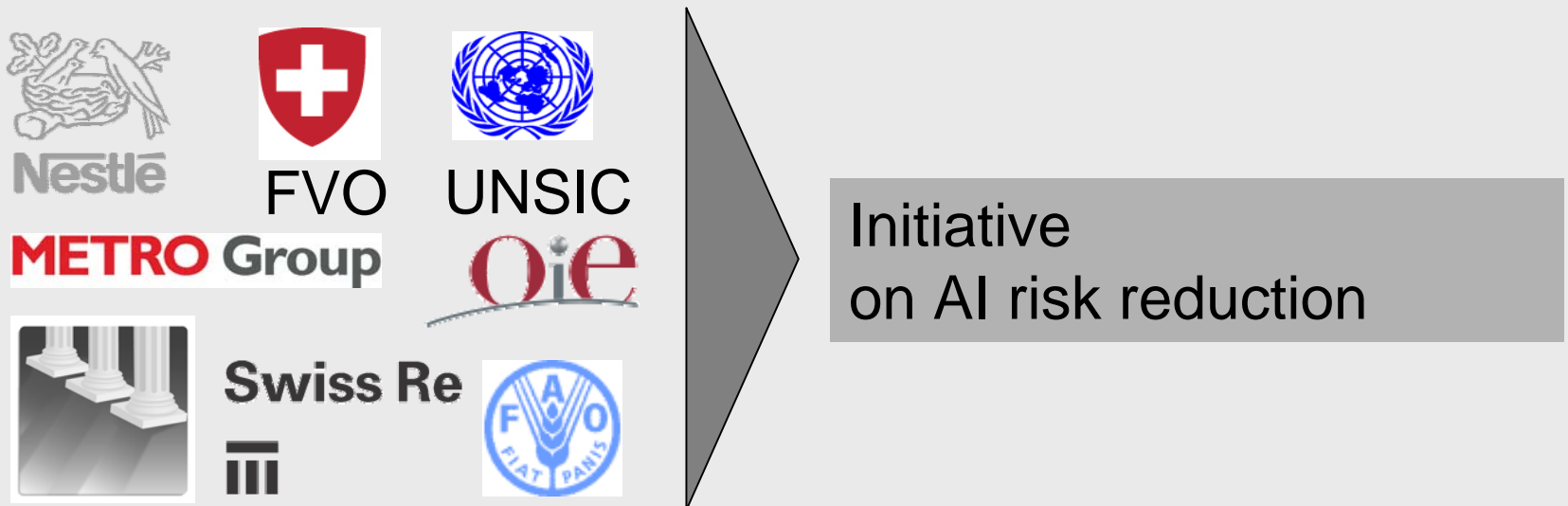
3

Can you really risk a 'sit and wait' strategy?

3 ½

Pathogens don't care whether you are public or private.  
Only whether you understand their biology.

# For example: avian influenza



# Summary

- More animal disease issues (including zoonotic) to be expected.
- That is a relevant food safety problem.
- Geographical substitution of supply will not solve it.
- Bundling of forces may.

# Thank you

## **Sources of data, charts and pictures:**

FAO, Foresight, OIE, ProMED,  
The Guardian, SAFOSO, WHO

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