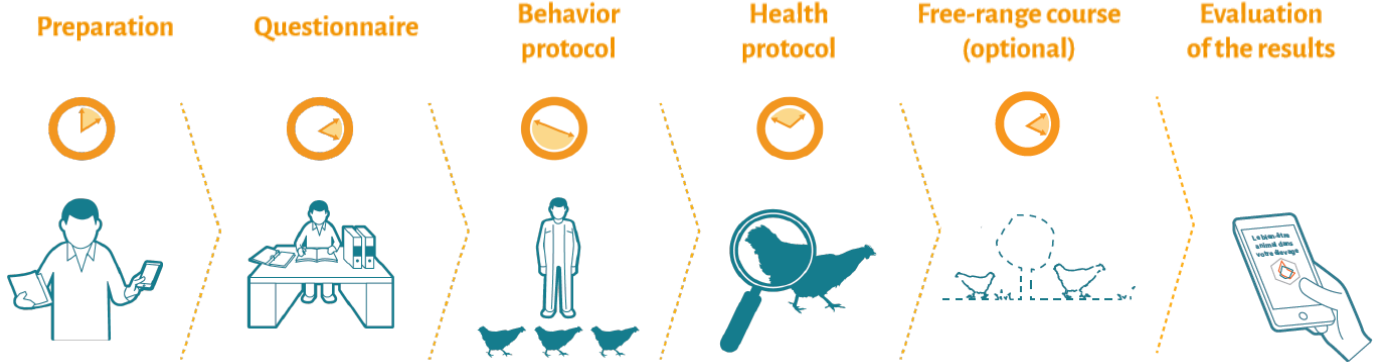


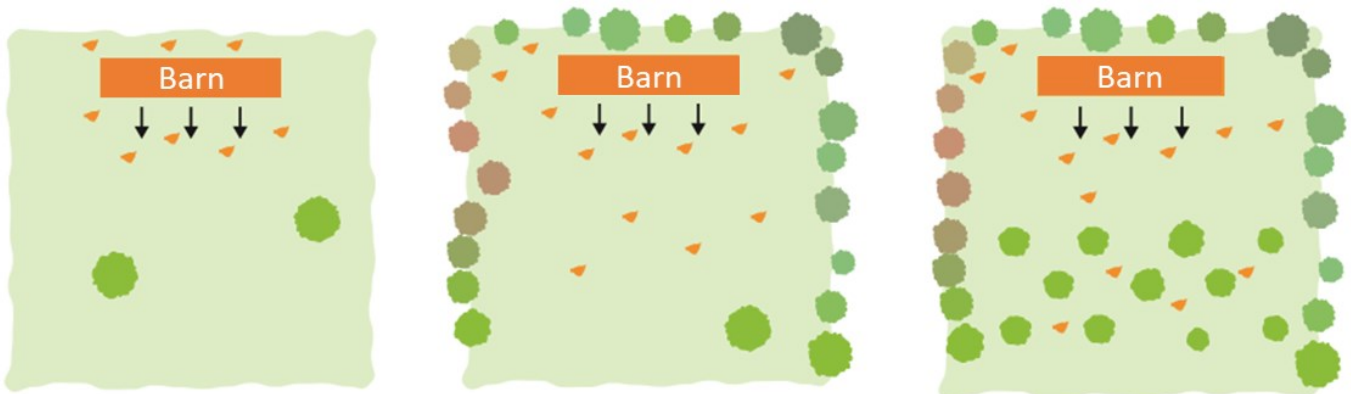
4. Behavioural assessment on the range

When considering poultry with open-air access, conducting observations of the animals on the range allows to evaluate how animals adapt their behaviours to this space.



By entering the free range, evaluate:

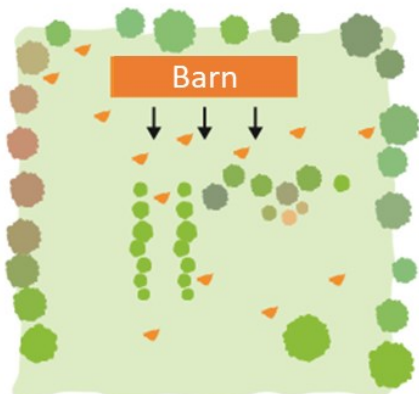
- › **Weather** (sunshine, clouds, rain, snow, wind, fog)
- › **Typology of the range** (scoring from 1 to 5)



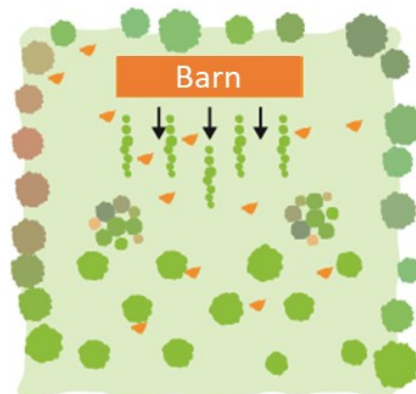
Score 1: Pasture

Score 2: Bare course

Score 3: Course with agroforestry arrangement



Score 4: Diversified course



Score 5: Complete course

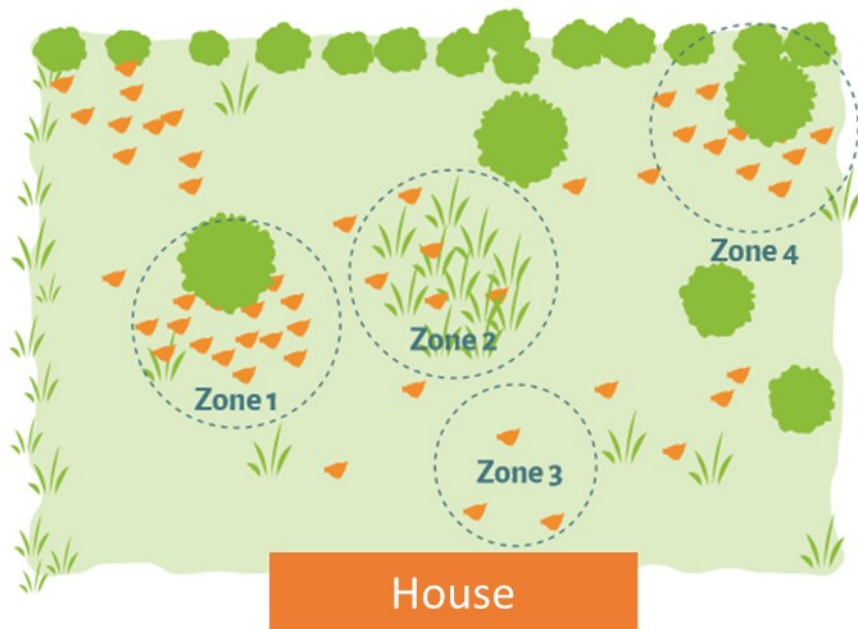
Before starting the assessment place yourself at the entrance of the range and note:

› **The percentage** of birds outside

› **Birds distribution on the range** (this can be a. birds are only distributed within the 25m of the pop-holes; b. birds are distributed over the whole surface of the range)

How to sample?

If it is feasible, identify 4 zones with different coverage (bare soil, shaded area, ...) and at least 10 birds per zone, as illustrated below. If it is not possible to do it, observations can be made on two similar zones (zones 1 and 4 on the picture). Come closer to the first zone and stop while standing. Observe animals on the zone and note all the behaviours expressed by each individual.



! When it is possible, ensure that at least 10 birds are present in the observed zone

For each observation zone, note:

› **The number of birds present in the zone,**

› **The nature of the soil on the zone** (ground, stones/concrete, grass, sunny or shaded area)

For each individual, observe the following behaviours:

› **Dust bathing** (lying on the ground, the animal shakes the litter with its wings and claws to coat its feathers with dust)



› **Foraging** (pecks the litter or another element – except the feed – and/or scrapes the litter with its claws)



› **Preening** (cleans its own feathers with its beak)



› **Positive interaction toward other birds** (mutual grooming, non-aggressive pecking, duelling)



› **Stretching of wings/ legs or wing flutter** (the bird deploys one or both wings calmly and on the spot- without locomotor activity- or extends one of its legs, flaps its

› **Aggressive behaviour toward other birds** (aggressive peaking directed to one or several birds, the head or the neck are often targeted). Note that duels are not indicative of aggressive behaviours



Be vigilant in distinguishing an aggressive pecking from an interaction.



Be vigilant, duels between animals are not synonymous with aggressiveness.