

People - Biosecurity Assessment

Employees, Farm Family, Neighbors	Recommended Procedures	Yes	No	N/A
Do farm personnel who work with livestock know where to find emergency contact information if needed?	The first section of a biosecurity plan should include emergency contact information for the veterinarian, etc. for a suspected outbreak/emergency.			
Do employees who have contact with livestock at other locations (including their own home) use biosecurity measures prior to entering livestock areas on your farm?	Employees can be a source of infectious agent introductions when they wear the same clothing and boots from one farm to your farm, without properly cleaning and disinfecting beforehand.			
Have you educated yourself and trained your employees to recognize and report diseases, and familiar with the different ways that diseases can be transmitted?	Train employees to recognize signs of disease and alert a supervisor if unusual disease signs or suspicious activities are observed.			
Do you always change into clean clothes or coveralls, gloves, hats, boots, etc. before working with livestock?	Ensure employees use regular procedures for hand washing and clothing/footwear changes. Dress code should include tying back long hair, clean headcovers and no jewelry.			
Are there on-farm facilities for changing from street clothing to clean work clothes, and access to a washing machine?	Establish a Line of Separation/sanitation station area that all visitors must go through before entering and when leaving areas where livestock are housed.			
Is personal protective equipment (PPE) available for farm workers to use daily, such as disposable gloves, boots, aprons, coveralls and reusable boots?	Personal protective equipment (PPE) can protect animals and livestock areas from infectious agent introductions. Encourage "come clean, go clean" practices for employees, neighbors and the family.			
When handling deadstock, will PPE be available for workers and service providers including disposable and impermeable outer clothing, respirators, gloves and boots?	Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be needed, and the level of protection required depends on the exposure/hazard.			
Is a boot bath set up for employees and visitors to use before entering and then leaving livestock areas?	Scrub off soil, manure, feed, etc. before using a boot bath to disinfectant boots. However, changing footwear is a more effective practice.			
Are workers aware about the risks of sharing equipment between farms, and discourage the practice?	Minimize lending of equipment if possible. If equipment is lent, clean and disinfect it before using again on your farm.			
Are proper sanitizing procedures used to clean and disinfect borrowed equipment?	If equipment must be shared, remove all manure and bedding, wash the equipment with warm water and soap, rinse, disinfect and rinse again before using it with livestock.			
After contacting your neighbor's livestock, do you wash and disinfect boots, and all other outerwear before returning to your farm?	It is ok to ask your neighbors, and for neighbors to ask you, to wear disposable boot covers and clean coveralls when visiting or working with your livestock. Communicate that your biosecurity practices that can protect their animals too.			

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Visitors	Recommended Procedures	Yes	No	N/A
Do you understand which visitors pose a low, medium or high risk in terms of biosecurity?	Identify persons who might be a higher risk for introducing diseases to livestock. Clearly explain how to follow your biosecurity procedures.			
Are there signs posted at the farm entrance telling visitors that they need permission to enter? Is there a phone number at the entrance or way for visitors to call and make an appointment?	Signs can be placed at main entrances, barn entrances, along the farm perimeter, employee work areas, and anywhere there are farm animals, feed and water sources, and equipment that contacts animals.			
Do you ask visitors to sign in, and maintain a visitor log?	Develop a system that easily identifies visitors. Explain disease prevention procedure to visitors. Keep track of who is visiting your farm by setting up an entry log sheet/book. The farm owner or designated biosecurity coordinator is the best person to maintain the log.			
Do you ask visitors to park in a designated area at the entrance to your farm that is a safe distance from livestock areas?	Visitor vehicles should park in a designated area and minimize cross-traffic with other farm traffic.			
Are visitors always accompanied by someone from the farm?	For security, as well as biosecurity procedures, do not allow unknown individuals, including delivery personnel, drivers, customers, government officials, reporters, sales people, contract providers, service support, and others, to have unlimited or unsupervised access to the premises.			
Do you prohibit visitors from bringing food items to the farm?	Contaminated pork items are a high risk for introduction of African swine fever.			
Is the use of protective clothing and personal cleanliness encouraged for visitors, especially if they will be in livestock areas?	In general, personal protective equipment (PPE) is intended as a barrier to protect the user from hazards, but for biosecurity purposes, PPE can protect animals and livestock areas from infectious agent introductions. Encourage "come clean, go clean" practices for visitors.			
Do you ask visitors if they have visited a foreign country within the past week?	Visitors from other countries or those who have visited countries outside of North America pose the risk of carrying diseases we do not have in the United States. These diseases can be carried on clothing, footwear and even in nasal passageways. Require foreign travelers to have had at least five days elsewhere in the country before arriving on your farm.			
Do you have procedures in place for pre-approving visitors?	Restrict visitors to those who have been preapproved. Restricting and preapproving visitors will help the site control which visitors are allowed. Site biosecurity measures should be discussed with visitors prior to arrival. Prohibit visitors from bringing food items to the farm.			
Are facilities available in controlled access areas for service providers and other visitors to clean their boots and equipment?	An area should be designated where visitors can clean boots and wash hands or change into clean clothing and footwear (or put on boot covers) before entering a livestock area. Personal items that cannot be disinfected should not be carried into animal areas.			

Sanitation - Biosecurity Assessment

Sanitation Program	Recommended Procedures	Yes	No	N/A
Do you have a designated biosecurity coordinator who manages the sanitation program?	This includes training employees, ordering supplies, monitoring sanitation schedules and maintaining sanitation stations.			
Is a quality control process in place to make sure sanitation is being done correctly?	Consider inspecting boot bottoms before entering livestock areas, checking vehicle tires in controlled access areas, creating a line of separation (between "clean" and "dirty" areas) and monitoring employee compliance with protocols.			
Are lines of separation (clean-dirty line) and sanitation stations established between controlled and restricted access areas to minimize transfer of infectious disease agents?	Entry and exit routes from special needs areas, buildings and premises, including fields and pastures should be (able to be) controlled to reduce the chance of diseases or pests entering or leaving.			
What disease risks are you concerned about?	Take into account the livestock species, farm location, current health status and disease threats. Check with your veterinarian for advice.			
Do you know how different diseases of livestock are transmitted?	Diseases and pests may be brought in by visitors, arrive with new animals or be passed to livestock by wildlife. Disease can be spread by airborne/aerosol inhalation, ingestion of contaminated feed or water, insect vectors or close contact between animals. What can you do to break the cycle?			
Do you clean equipment, change clothing and clean or change boots when handling different groups of animals from groups with differing health concerns?	To reduce spreading diseases among animals, the order of working with livestock should be clean before dirty, healthy before sick, young before older animals.			
What are the conditions under which a sanitation product (i.e., disinfectant) will be used? Do you specify which products are used under what conditions?	Surface type (tile, concrete, metal, sheet rock, rubber, etc.), water quality (hard or soft water, pH level), air temperature and weather are all factors in the effectiveness of sanitation products.			
Do you and your employees know what the hazards and safety precautions are with the use of sanitation products?	Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be needed, and the level of protection required depends on the product. This information can be found in the product's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).			
Do you know how to choose the correct sanitation product?	Products that are used for daily sanitation may be different than what is needed when a disease is present. A disinfectant may not always be needed depending on how well other infectious agent control methods are in working.			
Do you follow the recommended order of steps in the cleaning and disinfection process?	The order of steps: remove organic debris first (manure, soil, bedding, feed, blood, etc.); wash with the appropriate cleaning agent; rinse; dry. Disinfect after cleaning, using the appropriate product; follow label directions for mixing, contact time, and rinsing, if necessary. Wear appropriate PPE.			

Traffic Control - Biosecurity Assessment

Biosecurity Zones, Farm Traffic, Signage	Recommended Procedures	Yes	No	N/A
Do you have a zoned map of your farm that outlines where the high and medium to low risk areas (or zones) for infectious disease agent introductions are?	A farm diagram is useful to identify the high, medium and low risk areas of a farm. Focus on defining the boundaries of high-risk areas, then create a plan to keep unnecessary vehicle and foot traffic away from them.			
Are there strategies in place to reduce the number of entry points on the farm, prevent cross-over of clean and dirty traffic, and control vehicles that enter restricted access areas?	The farm map should include the risk zones, along with the site entry location, lines of separation, sanitation stations, designated parking areas, carcass disposal/pickup location, carcass removal pathway, and the movement of animal transport, delivery, service provider and visitor vehicles.			
Do you monitor and record the movement of people and vehicles over the premises?	Keep track of who is visiting your farm by setting up an entry log book.			
Have you posted biosecurity signs that clearly state specific measures to follow when on your farm?	Signs can help with directing the flow of traffic, where to park, and where delivery vehicles should go. The signs will alert all types of visitors that your farm practices biosecurity procedures that they need to follow.			
Is manure stored away from animal areas and spread to minimize contamination of water and feed?	Many infectious agents pass in feces or urine of infected animals. To reduce the risk of spreading diseases via manure, prevent contamination of feed and water and clean resting areas daily.			
Are you using a separate skid steer or loader bucket for moving manure and feed or clean bedding? Do you use separate shovels and forks for manure handling?	Manure handling equipment should not be used for moving feed as well. There is a high risk of disease transfer from manure equipment to feed. If a manure hauler is hired, the farm owner should establish and enforce biosecurity procedures for the hauler to follow.			
Is proper feed handling and storage to prevent infectious disease agent contamination part of your biosecurity procedures?	Ask your supplier about their quality assurance and monitoring programs such as how pests are limited, mycotoxins, facility contamination control (personnel and ingredients) and their retained sample program. Feed storage areas should be cleaned out between batches of feed. Feed refusals should be disposed of after 24 hours.			
Do you have a carcass disposal plan for deadstock to prevent the spread of diseases? Are necropsies requested to determine the cause of death?	A veterinarian can take samples of the animal carcass to test for diseases that may have caused the animal's death. Immediately dispose of dead animals. Fence off areas where deadstock is temporarily disposed to prevent feral animals from accessing carcasses. Check local and state regulations regarding disposal options, which may include calling a licensed deadstock collector, burial, incineration and composting.			

Livestock - Biosecurity Assessment

New and Returning Livestock - Quarantine	Recommended Procedures	Yes	No	N/A
How are new livestock arrivals managed on the farm?	Use a pre-purchase inspection or veterinary inspection/certificate. Ask your veterinarian to contact the source herd's veterinarian. Test and vaccinate as needed. The key point is to determine the vaccination and health status not for just the individuals you are buying, but also of the herd of origin.			
Do you have a post-purchase management strategy in place for livestock additions?	Quarantine new arrivals for at least two to three weeks, in separate clean, dry and comfortable housing, feeding and birthing areas. Prevent contact with the established herd during the quarantine period. Observe new animals during this time for any signs of disease. Minimize stress.			
Do you limit purchases of livestock to a few sources with trusted herd health programs?	Purchasing animals from a sale yard or auction markets presents a higher risk of bringing new diseases into your herd, because complete histories of the animals may not exist or may not be correct.			
Do you maintain a "closed herd" and grow the herd size internally?	Maintaining a closed herd is a good biosecurity method for preventing disease introductions.			
When animals are off the farm (for exhibition, fairs, shows) but will return, do you handle them like new introductions?	Any returning animal should be treated like a new animal introduction and quarantined for up to three weeks.			
When animals are off the farm, do you prevent the sharing of trailers, stalls, tack, grooming supplies, feed and water buckets, syringes, or reproductive equipment?	Fomites (inanimate objects such as equipment, footwear, vehicles) can indirectly transfer infectious disease agents among animals.			
When off the farm, do you limit the amount of contact your animals have with other animals or people?	People and other animals can spread diseases to your animal through direct contact (nose to nose, licking, biting or blood) or aerosols (sneezing).			
Animal Importation and Reportable Diseases	Recommended Procedures			
Do you find out about interstate animal importation rules when planning to move livestock to another state?	If you bring an animal from one U.S. state to another, they must meet certain regulatory requirements. Any required testing must be done in the state or country of origin. Contact the destination state's veterinarian about their regulations.			
Are you willing to work with your veterinarian if a reportable disease is suspected or diagnosed?	A disease or condition that is considered reportable must be brought to the attention of the federal and state veterinary authorities within prompt, defined timeframes, in accordance with national and state regulations. Contact your state veterinarian for information and a list of reportable diseases of livestock.			

Livestock - Biosecurity Assessment

Sick Livestock - Isolation	Recommended Procedures	Yes	No	N/A
Do you separate sick animals from the healthy animals in your herd?	Sick animals must be isolated from the herd until the animal recovers. Resting space that is clean, dry and comfortable and in a separate building is ideal. If this is not possible, then isolate the animals in a separate part of the barn.			
Do you use different equipment between healthy and sick animals?	There should be a dedicated, separate set of equipment that is used for sick animals. Follow appropriate steps for cleaning and disinfection. Wear PPE when working with sick animals; remove or change it before working with healthy animals.			
Does the isolation area include a way to restrain the animal(s) for examinations and administration of treatments?	Proper restraints are safer and less stressful for animals and people.			
When an animal(s) is in isolation, what is care workflow routine for the herd?	Young animals and healthy older animals should be taken care of first before sick animals. Do not move manure from isolation to other livestock areas.			
Are sick animals monitored daily and their treatments and response to treatments recorded?	Keep an accurate health record of each animal in the herd, especially treatments that require milk or meat withdrawal or withholding times.			
Neonatal Management	Recommended Procedures			
Do you ensure that all livestock ingest adequate amounts of colostrum within the first six hours of life?	Immunity against diseases is passively acquired by newborn livestock by ingesting colostrum, the first milk from the mother.			
Do you prevent contact of newborn animals with older animals and contaminated environments?	Young animals acquire infectious diseases primarily through exposure to older infected or carrier animals, or their environment. To minimize disease transmission, housing and management systems should minimize contact between youngstock and older animals. Younger animals need time to develop immunity to diseases.			
Herd Health	Recommended Procedures			
Are animals raised indoors only, or have access to pasture?	If animals will have access to pastures/outdoor environments, include these areas in your farm map's restricted access zone, using appropriate biosecurity procedures in these areas as well.			
Are animals monitored and inspected regularly for signs of illness?	Your biosecurity plan should include routine procedures to regularly inspect livestock for signs of disease, and to monitor the progress of recovery in animals that were isolated due to a disease. Record inspection dates and findings. Contact your veterinarian for testing, diagnosis and treatment plans if signs of disease are apparent.			

Livestock - Biosecurity Assessment

Herd Health	Recommended Procedures	Yes	No	N/A
For each species of livestock being raised, are you familiar with diseases that are common in your area and the types of vaccines that should be administered to them?	Talk with your veterinarian about what vaccine products are available and why he or she recommends them. Vaccines are the cornerstone of a preventive health program.			
Does your farm have a Premises ID?	A premises identification number (PIN) is a unique code that is permanently assigned to a single physical location. PIN registration is administered by each state and allows animal health officials to quickly and precisely identify where animals are located, in the event of an animal health or food safety emergency. A PIN is required to purchase official animal identification tags.			
Do you record the status of livestock health and treatments to maintain a herd/flock history? Is a seasonal/yearly schedule in place for examinations, vaccinations and other treatments?	Work with your veterinarian to develop a program for herd health that will promote what livestock needs to maintain health and disease immunity. Ask your regional livestock Extension specialist for recommendations on templates and/or computer software that would be helpful for keeping herd health records.			
Are livestock nutritional and water intake needs being met, so animals can maintain a healthy state with strong immune systems?	All animals require water, energy, protein, vitamins and minerals. These nutrients are needed to maintain body weight and immune system function as well as growth, reproduction or lactation.			
Do you increase the frequency of inspecting livestock for diseases during periods of higher risk, such as changeable or extreme weather conditions, calving, breeding or hatching?	Prevention and detection of diseases are the most impactful biosecurity methods for keeping animals healthy. There are times of year when some diseases are more prevalent, and weather conditions that might increase insect populations, requiring more vigilance with inspection of animals for signs of disease.			
Do your herd health practices work toward increasing an animal's ability to fend off diseases?	Livestock are more resistant to diseases when their nutritional and water intake needs are met, their living environment is kept clean and not stressful, and they receive appropriate vaccinations to build up immunity.			
Are vaccines and medications stored and handled according to label? Is the temperature regularly monitored?	Always follow label instructions for storage, mixing and dosing. Make sure not to brake the "cold chain", or the temperature-controlled supply chain from the manufacturer to supplier to your farm.			
Are personnel administering vaccines properly trained?	On-farm personnel who administer vaccines to livestock should know how to: avoid needle sticks, protect vaccines from temperature changes, safely restrain animals, properly dispose of sharps, and wear appropriate PPE.			
Are all personnel trained to recognize early signs of disease?	Signs may include fever, discharge from the nose, lameness, lethargy, etc. Contact your veterinarian for testing, diagnosis and treatment plans.			

Farm Security - Biosecurity Assessment

Farm Entrance and Perimeter	Recommended Procedures	Yes	No	N/A
Have you assessed areas or activities on the premises that are vulnerable and should have increased security measures?	Secure buildings, storage areas and surrounding property. Prevent intrusion with adequate fencing, lighting and locks. If needed, add intrusion detection alarms and cameras.			
Are potential employees asked to fill out a job application with references from previous job?	On-farm security includes doing what you can to hire employees who will not vandalize the property or be a threat to livestock. Check references before hiring.			
Do you have procedures for training new employees?	Start all new employees on a day shift. Let employees know who belongs on the farm and who doesn't. Monitor employees for any suspicious activity. Train employees on how to periodically conduct random security checks for signs of suspicious activity or unauthorized entry.			
Are medications and agricultural chemicals inventoried regularly, and stored in facilities that are locked and monitored?	Safety and security surrounding the storage, maintenance and application of agricultural chemicals is very important.			
What precautions are in place for identifying visitors?	Develop a system that easily identifies visitors. Explain disease prevention procedure to visitors. Have only one (clearly marked) entryway for use by visitors. Have a policy for essential visitors such as consultants, service people, and health professionals that are both (1) known to you, and (2) have visited the farm on a regular basis and (3) understand and respect the biosecurity protocols.			
Are your fences in good shape and able to keep out wildlife and feral animals? Do you protect feed sources from vermin such as rats, mice and birds? Are cats and dogs prohibited in livestock living areas?	Where their paths cross, livestock can be exposed to disease-causing agents carried by wildlife. To prevent disease transfer from wildlife, focus on feed storage, water sources and livestock living areas. Vaccinate livestock for diseases such as rabies. Feral animals, such as feral swine, are susceptible to, and serve as a reservoir for, diseases such as classical and African swine fever viruses and pseudorabies.			
How would you respond to threats or tampering with your animals, crops, bulk milk, equipment, chemicals, supplies, energy and water sources?	<p>Maintain an up-to-date list of contact names and numbers in case you are away from the farm, or incapacitated during an emergency? Tell your family or employees where to find this list. Post your 911 address clearly on your mailbox or a post on the road for emergency vehicles. Ask the local fire department and/or police to visit your farm for a safety and security check.</p> <p>In other words, plan for the physical security of your premises as well as its biological security.</p>			

Notes
