

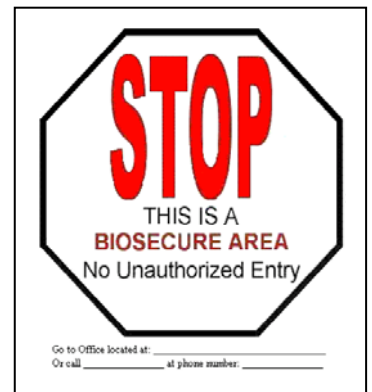
Biosecurity Checklist - General Livestock

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Biosecurity is a term we have come to hear frequently in recent years and can conjure up images of surveillance systems, security fences, complicated sanitizing processes, audits and inspections. However, biosecurity is really just the protection of livestock and poultry from any type of infectious agent whether viral, bacterial, fungal, or parasitic. People, animals and equipment can spread disease as they move around the farm from one facility to another or can bring diseases with them from off-farm. Among the many biosecurity procedures that can prevent these types of disease transmission are some simple measures which have little or no cost associated with them.

This document presents a checklist of some relatively easy to implement generic biosecurity practices for livestock operations which will reduce the risk of disease entry and transmission on your farm. It is not an exhaustive list by any means but is intended as a starting point. Each small step is an added level of protection against disease and will enhance your disease prevention and biosecurity risk management system. Your marketing board or association may have more prescriptive measures which you are required to follow.

- Post restricted entry signs to keep visitors out of facilities without your permission.
- Provide clean routes, not contaminated by manure, for delivery and service vehicles. Ensure visitors are aware of your biosecurity protocols
- Set aside a specific parking area for staff and/or visitors and post signage to clearly indicate that is where vehicles should be parked. Ensure the area is well-drained, free of manure or bedding, and a minimum of 15 feet from the barn.
- Identify the entrance you wish visitors to use as the access point to your facilities. A homemade sign clearly stating "Visitors' Entrance" and directional signs if needed will restrict access points.
- Locate a drop box away from the barn entrance for feed samples, courier deliveries, bills and receipts.
- Provide boots and coveralls for visitors at each barn. If staff are moving between barns, consideration should be given to having separate boots and coveralls for them at each building.
- Keep a visitor log book at each barn to record the name and date of visitors and service vehicles. A binder or clipboard with a pen or pencil attached by string is all that is required.
- Clean footbaths and a scrub brush at the entry to the barn will help reduce pathogens but must be changed regularly. Footbaths alone are not an effective means of disinfecting footwear.
- Restrict access to facilities to essential visitors only. Keep visitors out of animal pens and feed alleys and do not allow direct contact with animals if not essential.
- Ask foreign visitors about diseases in their country of origin and restrict them from your farm if they have been on a farm within the previous 48 hours.
- Provide hand washing facilities or a bottle of hand sanitizer for visitors and insist they use it upon entering and exiting from facility.
- Provide a container or plastic bag for collecting dirty clothing or disposable items used by visitors.
- Wash farm clothing separately from other household laundry and use detergents and bleach or washing soda.



- Have separate equipment and tools for handling manure and feed. Mark your forks and shovels with coloured duct tape to identify which is for manure and which is for feed. Avoid sharing manure handling equipment with neighbours.
- Wash equipment to be shared with neighbours and insist on clean equipment coming onto your farm.
- Establish separate isolation pens for sick livestock, new arrivals and maternity pens. However, sick pens should only be used for sick animals and contact should be restricted between sick pens and maternity or holding pens. Clean all manure from the pens and disinfect after use. Prevent manure movement from the isolation pen to the rest of the herd.
- Purchase replacement animals from herds of known disease status.
- Establish a herd health program, including vaccination protocols, and review it regularly with your veterinarian. Vaccinations can prevent some diseases.
- Implement a pest control program; wild birds and rodents may carry infectious disease or contaminate feed supplies.
 - Screen all openings in naturally ventilated barns and exhausts.
 - Seal off openings into silo roofs.
 - Screen ledges which could be used as nesting sites.
 - Clean up feed spills.
 - Maintain bait stations.
 - Minimize vegetation and debris around facilities.
 - Keep pets out of barns and vaccinate them for rabies and diseases common in your area.
- Control the fly population by removing manure, using traps, baits or flypaper, using insecticides, or a combination of control measures.
- Test water for bacterial contamination.
- Ensure feed and water is kept clean; minimize contamination by manure and urine.
- Remove dead animals immediately and dispose of them in an approved manner (licensed collector, bury or compost according to protocols, etc.). Clean and disinfect the area after carcass removal and wear protective clothing when handling deadstock.
- Remove manure frequently from barns, yards and holding areas to prevent completion of life cycles of parasites and flies.
- Store manure so it is inaccessible to livestock, especially young stock.
- Assure clean teats and udders for nursing young by providing clean birthing areas and bedding packs with clean straw or shavings.
- Minimize disease spread by working with livestock from youngest to oldest and healthy to sick.
- For outdoor livestock, prevent animals from having fence-line contact with livestock from other farms.
- House young livestock away from older animals where appropriate.
- Implement a good record keeping system for vaccination dates, footbath changes, disease occurrences, rodent bait changes, etc. This will help you keep track of your biosecurity practices as well as flag any significant flock/herd health changes.

Our Mission

To facilitate the development and coordination of an Ontario strategy to deal with foreign animal disease and other transmissible livestock and poultry diseases.