

On Farm deFense (OFF) Fact Sheet



What is Biosecurity and Why is it Important to Me?

Biosecurity refers to the measures taken to keep diseases out of herds, flocks or groups of animals. Some diseases can only spread from animal to animal, but there are some that can have significant health effects on humans (ie: E. coli O157:H7, salmonellosis and club lamb fungus).

In addition to federal guidelines, individual states can set regulations on animals entering their state. Examples are: Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Pseudorabies. These diseases are monitored by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection through the animal health regulations for county fairs, exhibitions and state fairs.

The responsibility at the herd, flock level lies with the owner (you). You must do the following items in order to be successful: address how you will isolate animals, how traffic (people, animals and equipment) will be regulated and how cleaning and disinfection procedures will be used to reduce disease. Fairs and shows are such an enjoyable activity for many people, it is important to keep these events open and accessible to both exhibitors and the public.

How can I reduce the risk of diseases entering my farm?

Step 1:

- Select healthy animals for your project.
- Does your animal appear normal?
- Observe stance and movement.
- Is appetite normal?
- Are other animals on the farm healthy?
- Expect good body condition, healthy skin and no lameness.
- Examine discharges and mucous membranes, and exclude those animals with abnormal discharges.

Step 2: What steps does the farm take to keep diseases out? Buy animals from a known source with an effective preventive medicine program, including appropriate vaccines and a specific program to prevent the introduction of new diseases to the herd. This would include at a minimum isolation and observation of any animal arriving on the farm. Veterinary advice is strongly recommended, since effective programs will vary depending on the specific risk for each herd.

Step 3: Develop your own herd health plan with your county agent, or veterinarian to meet your needs. It can be very simple and may only involve vaccinations, deworming and a good feeding and husbandry pro-

gram.

Step 4: Keep accurate records of who visited your farm and which animals were introduced. Ask if they have visited a farm that currently has sick animals. If they have, do not allow them to visit your animals.

Step 5: You can dramatically reduce the risk of disease transmission if you plan to exhibit your animal at only one terminal show. Terminal shows are events at which animals are sold for harvest and don't go back home. If you plan to bring animals back home from fairs and exhibitions see the following procedures.



Practical ways I can reduce introduction of new diseases in my animals

- Get a premises identification number (PIN) for where you are housing your animals. To receive your PIN, contact the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium at 1-888-808-1910, or go to their web site at www.wiid.org.
- Movement records for each animal should be kept by the exhibitor. The following movement information should be recorded every time livestock are moved between sites.
 - Name, address or PIN of where the animals were purchased.
 - PIN where the animals are housed or raised
 - Animal ID for each animal (lists all tags, tattoos or ear notches)
 - Date the animal were moved
 - Destination PIN (where animals were weighed, exhibited or moved to). Records should be kept in a safe place and copies of those records should be with exhibitors anytime they move their animals.
 - Vehicles used to transport your animals should be cleaned, disinfected and allowed to dry before other animals are hauled.
 - Do not exhibit animals that have clinical signs of any contagious disease.
 - Have your animals checked by a veterinarian and obtain a health certificate 30 days or less before the fair.
 - Isolate all purchased animals, animals returning from a show or other animal contact for 30 days. If they are incubating a disease, you may detect it before other animals are exposed. Hold isolated animals in a separate pen in a different barn or at least a separate corner of the barn. At a minimum, avoid nose to nose contact between isolated and non-isolated animals. Handle the animals separately. Use different boots for



isolated animals and wash your hands before and after caring for them. If possible, handle isolated animals after you have finished chores for the non-isolated animals.

- Do not share equipment among exhibitors, unless it is disinfected between uses. Ringworm and club lamb fungus are rapidly spread through contaminated clippers. Other diseases can be spread by use of feeding and watering equipment. Make sure equipment is cleaned and disinfected before going home. Remove all dirt from items (boots, equipment etc..) with soapy water. Then disinfect. Disinfectants aren't as effective if organic material has not been removed. When working with an animal that has ringworm or club lamb fungus it may be necessary to wear rubber gloves.

- If using someone else's truck and trailer, clean and disinfect it before you use it and when you return home from a show. Make sure inside and outside wheels, bumpers, etc.. are disinfected.

- Disinfectants: One Stroke Environ^T and Virkon S^T or another commercially available disinfectant that is labeled effective to kill bacteria and viruses, or use a solution of 3/4 cup of household bleach to one gallon of water. **Ask for assistance from an adult when using and mixing bleach & disinfectants.** Note that all disinfectants are only effective with adequate contact time and in non-freezing conditions. Check the label for contact time. For example, bleach requires 5 minutes to work. Disinfectants aren't as effective when the temperature is cold.

Personal Hygiene:

- Discourage visitors from touching or petting your animals. If you allow it, have visitors use a hand sanitizer or put on disposable rubber gloves before touching your animals.
- If they do, encourage them to wash their hands before and afterwards or use disposable disinfectant wipes or chemical disinfectant gels both before and after touching your animals.
- Wash your hands with soap and water (good) or disinfectant soap and water (better) after direct contact with animals and before you contact other animals or eat.
- Avoid eating in animal exhibit areas.
- Practice good personal hygiene. Wash with soap and water after handling your animals and put on clean clothes. Keep your boots and shoes clean and don't carry barn muck into the house. Change clothes when returning home from a show to do chores. If you must contact other's animals, wash and disinfect hands and change or clean and disinfect boots before handling yours.

Visitors:

- Be cautious regarding who has contact with your live-

stock. Make sure they check in at the house before entering barns. Visitors to your farm should wear clean clothes that have not been in contact with other animals since they were last laundered. Be sure their boots and shoes are clean and disinfected, or provide them with disposable plastic boots or boots and coveralls you keep for visitor use.

- Minimize nose-to-nose contact with other animals to the extent that it is possible. Use solid paneling instead of open panels and have empty pens in between animals wherever possible. Keep your animals as comfortable as you can to reduce stress.



Use this opportunity to educate the public. Explain what biosecurity is and why it's necessary all the time, not just now. Tell consumers that biosecurity not only protects the farmer, but also protects them by assuring animals are healthy. Healthy animals mean safe food for people.

Animal Well-Being

Animals that are well cared for will grow faster and be healthier—Good care equals good welfare or well-being. Producers' care and management of their animals are through: 1. Feed, 2. Water and 3. Facilities.

- Feed and Water—all producers should provide their animals the right amount of clean feed and water on a daily basis and on a routine. They should also make sure the feed has the right level of nutrients—protein, energy, vitamins and minerals.

- Facilities—producers should provide a comfortable thermal environment for their livestock. For example: some way for an animal to warm up or cool down. Provide the correct amount of space for the animals to lay down and eat and drink.

Other items of concern:

- Look at your animals everyday.
- Observe animals for abscesses, wounds, etc..
- Treat all animals with respect at all times. Handling animals safely is important for both animal and handler.
- Provide your animal a stress free environment to grow.

Websites with additional information:

<http://www.usda.gov>

<http://www.biosecuritycenter.org/>

<http://datcp.state.wi.us/>

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/>

Information Adapted from these Resources:

- University of Nebraska & The Ohio State University
 - National Pork Board: Patrick Webb, DVM, National Pork Board & Wisconsin Pork Association materials.
- Prepared by: Larry Bauman, Extension Veterinarian University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Bernie O'Rourke, Extension Youth Livestock Specialist; and Tammy Vaassen, Wisconsin Pork Association.