

CLIENT EDUCATION HANDOUT

OPTIONAL
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Biosecurity: General Principles on Livestock Operations

Overview

Biosecurity procedures are practices implemented in order to prevent the introduction or spread of pathogens and decrease the impacts of biological and chemical hazards. On livestock operations where food is being produced, biosecurity is also important to protect the food chain from diseases of public health concern.

The principals of biosecurity are: isolation, sanitation and restricted movement. Examples of these principals on a livestock operation include quarantine procedures, thorough cleaning of equipment, and limiting contact between animal groups.

When developing a biosecurity plan for your operation it is important to first identify the risks and hazards that may result in disease outbreaks. This will vary based on the animal species, housing type, proximity to other livestock, etc.

General Management Practices

- Availability of boots for visitors to use while on the farm. Clean coveralls for visitors are important in higher biosecurity systems.
- Footbaths should be placed between groups of animals or at the farm entrance and exit. These must be replaced frequently as buildup of organic matter limits efficacy.
- Designating a parking area for visitors will limit transfer of pathogens from tires, etc.
- Fences or barriers should be used to discourage wildlife from entering the operation.
- Cats and dogs should not have access to feed areas as they carry numerous diseases that cause abortion in livestock (i.e. neosporosis and toxoplasmosis).
- Any newly purchased animal should be quarantined and tested for specific transmissible diseases according to species and use. For example, all bulls, rams, and bucks should be tested for sexually transmitted diseases prior to mating.
- All maternity areas should be away from hospital pens to limit exposure of immunosuppressed dams and neonates to disease. These areas should be cleaned out daily or ideally after each birth.
- Vaccinate against transmissible disease when possible.
- Keep all equipment that handles manure separate from equipment that handles feed.
- Label all chemicals and keep in a storage area away from feed and animal access
- Segregate all sick animals immediately and provide appropriate treatment promptly. A separate feed and water supply should be used for these animals.

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Blackwell's 5-Minute Veterinary Consult: Ruminant 2nd Ed.

- Be aware of which diseases are transmissible to humans on your livestock operation (i.e., leptospirosis in cattle, ORF in sheep, etc.)

Biosecurity is important locally, nationally, and internationally. It is all of our responsibilities to ensure the safety of our animals, neighbors, and food supply.

Notes

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