

PROTECTING YOUR FARM: BIOSECURITY TIPS FOR FARMERS

Why Biosecurity?

Biosecurity is the prevention of diseases getting onto a farm and spreading in your herd. Biosecurity keeps animals healthy and your business profitable

1

People and Visitors

- Limit who comes onto the farm. Only essential visitors allowed
 - ⚠ Less people, less risk
- Use signs to show where people can and cannot go.
- Keep gates closed and locked.
- Spray vehicle wheels or use a disinfectant bath at the gate. Make sure the baths are topped up and clean.
- Ensure that animal transport vehicles' load surfaces are cleaned and disinfected.
 - ⚠ Disinfectant does not work if sprayed over mud or dirt. The germs hide under the mud and will not be killed.
- Visitors should not have had contact with other cloven-hoofed animals for at least 2 nights.
- Ensure visitors change into clean clothes /overalls and boots (especially veterinarians and consultants moving from one farm to the next).
- Everyone must report to the office and sign in.
- Keep a visitor register with name, time, and reason for visit.
- Record all deliveries (feed, new animals, etc.) including:
 - Date
 - Driver's name
 - Company
 - Previous delivery point
 - Confirmation that vehicle was cleaned and disinfected before loading.

2

Farm Workers

- Staff living off the farm must do a “dry shower” by removing own footwear and clothing and then change into work clothing and footwear provided by the farm. (NB avoid cross contamination of “outside” clothing and “farm” clothing)
- Staff must sign a declaration at least weekly confirming that they avoid contact with cloven-hoof animals.
- Wash clothes often. Staff must not wear the same dirty clothes every day.
- Different colours of clothing (overalls) can help show where someone is allowed to work. For example, green for calves and grey for sick animals.
- Everyone must wash and disinfect hands often— before feeding, touching calves, or after handling sick animals.
- Everyone working on the farm is part of the biosecurity team. You need to know the biosecurity protocols of the farm
- Know the signs of sick animals, especially FMD symptoms and report it.

3

Animals on the Farm

- Each animal must be identifiable with a tag
- Check all animals daily.
- Sick animals must be isolated from the rest of the herd.
- When working with animals, start with the young healthy animals then move to the older ones and lastly the sick animals. with last.
- Record all treatments in a book.
- If an animal dies, dispose of the animal in accordance with the environmental permit – at least 2 meters deep, away from the other animals and/or use slake lime.
- If two animals die close together, call the vet.

4

Equipment

- Don't use the same tools for feeding and cleaning.
- Use separate tools for sick animals.
- Clean and disinfect all tools after use.

- Don't share equipment between farms and production units.
- Keep tools in a clean, dry place.
- Always clean the crush, kraal and loading ramps.
- Don't put too many animals in one pen.
- Fix any broken fences or equipment.

* Cleaning and disinfecting are two different steps. You must clean first before disinfectant can work properly.

1. Dry clean: Remove mud, manure, and dirt using a broom or brush.
2. Wet clean: Wash the surface with clean water to remove leftover dirt.
3. Then use disinfectant

5

Fences

- The farm must be fully fenced.
- Don't let your animals touch neighbours' animals.
- Try to have a 20-meter gap (buffer zone) between herds.
- Keep feed and water away from the fence.
- Check the fence regularly.

6

Feed & Water

Germs can spread in dirty feed and water.

- Clean water troughs often.
- Store feed in a clean, dry place.
- Keep feed covered and away from rats and birds.
- Feed delivery trucks must offload away from animals and not go further than necessary.
- Don't feed near boundary fences.
- Limit access to feed stores and troughs to authorised staff.

7

New Animals

Even healthy-looking animals can carry diseases. That's why every new animal must be treated as a potential risk until proven safe.

- Keep a record of all animal movement in and out of the farm and between production units.
- Quarantine all new animals for 28 days to give time for any hidden illness to show.
- Keep quarantine camps fully fenced. They must be at least 20 meters away from the main herd or any area where other animals graze.
- Check quarantined animals every day for signs of illness and record what you see.
- Use separate clothing and tools for these animals.
- No animals should leave the farm during the 28-day quarantine.
- Test new animals for diseases including brucellosis and TB.

REMEMBER: New animals = new risk.