**Biosecurity**

Recently, we have taken what we know for biosecurity protocol on farm and transferred it to our daily lives to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Let’s take a look at what that really means.

Biosecurity protocols help reduce the risk of a disease or infection outbreak on farm amongst livestock and an outbreak of a zoonotic disease or infection among workers. Sources of diseases and infections can come from a worker’s clothes or boots which have been exposed to animal manure or biological fluids and even material resources brought on farm.

To prevent the spread of infectious or zoonotic diseases on farm it is important to conduct a hazard or risk assessment to determine the protocols that need to be implemented.

Below is a list of potential hazards that could be a source of disease or infection. Use the list to determine the potential risk on your farm and develop protocol to prevent the introduction or spread of disease on your farm.

* Visitor control program to limit access or monitor activity.
* Manure management and control program
* Workers employed on more than one farm.
* Fencing and pens to ensure separation from other animals.
* Source of livestock; introduced from another farm or bred on farm.
* Reputable source for supplies.
* Health check program to monitor for diseases and common illnesses.
* Isolation process for transported animals.
* Cleaning of pens or housing units.
* Cleaning and disinfecting of shared tools and equipment on farm.
* Sharing of tools and equipment with other farms.
* Use designated tools for clean and dirty tasks (i.e. not use the same shovel for manure and silage).
* Separate housing for sick animals and birthing animals.
* Rodent control program.
* Vaccination program and pest/parasite control.
* Wildlife control.
* Removal and investigation process for dead animals.
* Clean food and water supply.
* Have a separate set of clothing and boots for different animal species.
* Personal protective equipment available for workers and visitors (booties, gloves, masks, coveralls)
* Written practices and procedures for biosecurity protocols and training program.
* Signs for biosecurity protocols posted.

Reference: <https://www.ovma.org/assets/1/20/Farm_Assessment_Tool.pdf>

**Biosecurity – DISCUSSION RECORD**

**Agenda:**

* Discuss biosecurity hazards on the farm and evaluate the potential risk.
* Discuss types of current protocols to mitigate the hazard.
* Check to ensure the appropriate PPE is available and easily accessible.

Comments or safety concerns as a result of the discussion or observed since the last rally?

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Follow-up to concerns raised at previous rally?
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Action Items?
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Near Miss/Incidents/Unsafe Acts/Conditions to Report?

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Topics recommended for future Rallies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank the rally members for their participation.**

**Quiz Answers:** 1. T, 2. T, 3. d, 4. B, 5. T

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

1. Biosecurity protocols help reduce the risk of a disease or infection outbreak on farm.

True or False

2. Sources of diseases & infections can come from a worker’s clothes or boots which have been exposed to animal manure or biological fluids and even material resources brought on farm.True or False

3. Which of the following are potential biosecurity hazards:

1. Workers employed on more than one farm.
2. Cleaning of pens or housing units.
3. Food and water supply.
4. All of the Above

4. To reduce the biosecurity risk on farm, develop a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to prevent the introduction or spread of disease.

1. Research Plan
2. Protocol
3. Isolation shed

5. To prevent the spread of infectious or zoonotic diseases on farm it is important to conduct a hazard or risk assessment. True or False

**Attendance RECORD**

\*This is to acknowledge that I understand and agree to actively participate in the safety meeting.

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