

# General Disease Prevention Practices For Farms

This document outlines basic biosecurity measures that should be used daily on farms, as well as additional biosecurity measures to take during an animal disease emergency

## Daily Prevention Practices

Two of the biggest risks for disease entry include animals and traffic (vehicles and people).

- Restrict access to your farm
  - Post signs at the farm's entrance (e.g., Do Not Enter, Authorized Personnel Only)
  - Limit access to employees or people with appointments
  - Require visitors to sign in and disclose recent contact with animals
  - Limit livestock contact with wildlife, birds, roaming cats, dogs
- Purchase animals from known sources and from a limited number of sources
- Quarantine animals new to the farm
- Isolate sick animals
- Keep detailed health records on every animal
- Train employees to inspect and report sick animals
- Report animals with unusual illness or those that are not responding to treatment

## Disease Prevention by Method of Spread

### To prevent diseases spread by air droplets:

- Increase distance between sick and well animals
- Maximize ventilation in barns and facilities to increase fresh air, decreased humidity, decreased odor

### To prevent diseases spread by direct contact:

- Restrict access to your farm
- Limit contact between animals; isolate sick animals
- Keep environment clean and dry
- Clean and disinfect equipment, vehicles and footwear

### To prevent diseases spread by food, water, or objects:

- Keep feed and water sources clean
- Properly manage and dispose of manure and bedding
- Clean and disinfect equipment

### To prevent diseases spread by insects, such as mosquitoes, biting midges, flies and ticks:

- Reduce the source and habitats of these insects (e.g., remove areas of standing water, remove fecal matter from environment)
- Minimize animal exposure to these disease vectors

## Prevent Disease Introduction onto Your Farm during an Animal Health Emergency

- Restrict movement of animals (Note: movement restrictions for animals, animal products, and vehicles may be issued by the State)
- Restrict access to essential personnel only
- Record all traffic and visitors to the operation
- Monitor animals frequently for signs of illness or disease; notify your veterinarian of any unusual signs or death
- Wear gloves, clean coveralls, boots at all times; Wash hands between animal groups or farms
- Disinfect vehicles, footwear and equipment frequently, especially between groups of animals
- Disinfect with an appropriate product, making sure to use the proper concentration and recommended contact time
- Vaccination or treatment of animals will be subject to approval by State or Federal animal health authorities depending on availability and the disease of concern

## For More Information

Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH).  
Biological Risk Management for Producers.  
<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM/>



[www.iowahomelandsecurity.org](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org)



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