

HEARTWATER PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST



General Precautionary Measures

- Y N Have you restricted or stopped all animal movement on or off your farm to prevent entry or spread of heartwater disease?
- Y N Do you use strict biosecurity measures for animals and people?

Farm Entrance and Perimeter

- Y N Do you limit access to your farm?
- Y N Do you have only one gated entrance to the animal areas on your farm to better control and monitor visitors and vehicles?
- Y N Do you keep the gate locked when not in use?
- Y N Have you posted signs at the farm entrance to inform visitors to stay off your farm unless absolutely necessary?
- Y N Have you posted a visitor biosecurity sign that clearly lists specific measures to follow when on your farm?
- Y N Do you require visitors to follow your farm's biosecurity procedures?
- Y N Do you require visitors to check-in with farm personnel upon their arrival?

Gulf Coast Tick

- Y N Do you house your cattle in an area that is free of the Gulf Coast Tick?
- Y N Do you know what seasons the Gulf Coast Tick actively feeds on animals if found in your area of the U.S.?

Animals- Livestock

- Y N Do you closely monitor animals for ticks, especially in the areas difficult to groom (ears, udder, tail head, inside legs)?

PROMPTLY REMOVE ANY TICKS AND SUBMIT THEM TO YOUR VETERINARIAN OR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE TO BE IDENTIFIED.

HEARTWATER PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST (CONT'D)



- Y N Do you closely monitor animals every day for any developing illness?
- Y N Have you educated yourself about heartwater and the signs of infection?
- Y N Have you educated your employees about heartwater disease and the signs of infection?
- Y N Do you isolate sick animals from the herd to minimize disease spread?
- Y N Do you use separate facilities, equipment, and staff to handle isolated livestock, especially needles and syringes?
- Y N Do you require that any animals that have recently been acquired or have returned to the farm be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days?

CONTACT YOUR HERD VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY IF ANY UNUSUAL SIGNS OF ILLNESS ARE OBSERVED.

Animals- Wildlife, Other

- Y N Do you limit exposure between your livestock and wildlife, birds, and small mammals?
- Y N Do you keep dogs kenneled or tied securely to avoid contact with livestock?
- Y N Do you closely monitor your dogs for ticks or apply monthly topical treatments to prevent them from infestation?
- Y N Do your neighbors prevent their dogs from roaming off their farm?
- Y N Do you keep your farm, yards, and storage areas clean and tidy to avoid attraction of birds and small mammals?

Record Keeping

- Y N Do you maintain thorough and accurate records of animal movement?
- Y N Is each farm location treated as a separate unit?
- Y N Do you know the health status and the source of the animal(s) brought onto your farm?
- Y N Do you only bring animals onto your farm if they are proven to be from heartwater-free areas?

HEARTWATER PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST (CONT'D)



People

- Y N Do you require employees or visitors check themselves for ticks before entering your farm?
- Y N Do you maintain a log sheet to record any visitors or vehicles that come onto your farm?
- Y N Are visitors accompanied by someone from the farm at all times?
- Y N Do you require that visitors avoid livestock areas, pens, and barns unless absolutely necessary?

Neighbors

- Y N Have you discussed the threat of heartwater disease with your neighbors and determined precautions you can take together to protect your farms from becoming infected?
- Y N Do you work together to keep vegetation mowed short to eliminate tick habitats?

Tick Control

- Y N Have you discussed acaricide treatment with your veterinarian and established a plan for your animals?
- Y N Do you inspect pastures weekly for the presence of the Gulf Coast tick?

Conclusion

Total number of: **Yes responses** _____ **No responses** _____

If you have 1 or more No responses, you have identified areas for improvement on your farm. Not all questions are equal in their risk of disease transmission, so it is important to work with your veterinarian to develop a management plan addressing the biggest risks first. This will help minimize the chance of heartwater disease from entering your farm. Each farm will be unique in their ability to prevent disease transmission because management styles, herd sizes and finances vary.