



# ROUTES OF ORAL TRANSMISSION

## DAIRY CATTLE

### General Management

- Y N Do you clean and disinfect contaminated facilities and treatment items (e.g. balling guns, speculum, stomach tube, etc.) between uses?
- Y N Do you prohibit sharing equipment (including tractors) with other operations?
- Y N Do you have an established deworming program for each production stage?

### Calving/Calf Management

- Y N Do you calve heifers separately from cows?
- Y N Do you limit use of your calving pens to calving only and not for isolation animals?
- Y N Do you deeply bed your calving pens with an absorbent material?
- Y N Do you dispose of all reproductive afterbirth so young stock and predators do not have access to it?
- Y N Do you clean the cow's udder before collecting colostrum?
- Y N Do you collect colostrum within the first 2 hours after calving?
- Y N Do you use a colostrometer to determine poor versus good quality colostrum?
- Y N Do you always use the best quality colostrum for first time feedings?
- Y N Do you only use colostrum from test negative cows (Bovine Leukosis Virus and Johne's disease)?
- Y N Do you immediately refrigerate colostrum that is not going to be fed for 2 to 4 hours in a sealed, single use container?
- Y N Do you immediately freeze your colostrum if it will be stored for more than 24 hours in a labeled, sealed, single use container?
- Y N Do you give newborns 3/4 to 1 gallon of colostrum within the first six hours of life?
- Y N Do you give a second dose of colostrum (1/2 to 3/4 gallon) 12 hours after the first feeding?
- Y N Do you pasteurize waste milk before feeding to calves?
- Y N Do you utilize individual calf housing for newborn calves and ensure there is no direct contact between them?
- Y N Do you prevent calves from having direct contact with each other until at least 5 weeks of age?
- Y N Are coccidiostats a regular part of your calf feeding program?
- Y N Do you prevent young animals from coming in contact with manure from older animals?

## ROUTES OF ORAL TRANSMISSION (CONT'D)

### DAIRY CATTLE



#### Feed/Water Management

- Y N Does your feed supplier test for mycotoxins?
- Y N Are feed deliveries monitored to prevent inclusion of ruminant animal proteins into cattle rations?
- Y N Do you routinely examine all feedstuffs for manure, mold, foreign material, and overall quality?
- Y N Do you store feeds to prevent access by ALL animals (e.g. wildlife, dogs, cats, livestock)?
- Y N To minimize feed contamination, do you maintain an effective rodent control program?
- Y N Do you have separate equipment dedicated to only the handling of feed and NOT handling manure?
- Y N If you use the same equipment to handle manure and feed, do you clean/disinfect it after handling manure and before it is used for feed?
- Y N Are your pen entrances designed to prevent people from stepping into the feed bunks?
- Y N Do you use troughs/concrete feedbunks for feed, as opposed to feeding directly on the ground?
- Y N Do you clean troughs/feedbunk of gross debris (e.g. "old" feed, manure, leaves, water, etc.) before adding fresh feed?
- Y N Do you avoid feeding leftover feed from lactating cows to young stock?
- Y N To minimize feed/water contamination, do you take steps to minimize bird nesting on your dairy?
- Y N Have you tested your livestock drinking water in the last year?
- Y N If water on your farm became unfit to drink, do you have a plan to provide good quality water to your livestock?
- Y N Do all animals on farm have access to clean drinking water sources?
- Y N Do you clean waterers at least once a week to avoid buildup that allows growth of disease causing organisms?
- Y N Do you have railings around the waterers to prevent animals from entering, defecating, or urinating in them?
- Y N Do you limit access to undesirable water sources (e.g. stagnant water and lagoons)?
- Y N If you utilize natural water sources (e.g. ponds and streams), do you control access so cattle cannot enter and contaminate it?
- Y N Do you restrict your animals from access to waterways that pass through other livestock operations upstream?

# ROUTES OF ORAL TRANSMISSION (CONT'D)

## DAIRY CATTLE



### Manure Management

- Y N Do you scrape or flush inside alley ways at least once daily?
- Y N Do you keep your stalls clean and dry (e.g. scraped at least once daily and refilled with bedding)?
- Y N Do you store collected manure and waste in a manner that limits spills and overflows?
- Y N Do you prevent the use of non-composted manure from other operations on pastures and/or crops in your operation?
- Y N If manure is spread on crop ground, is it done early in the growing season?

### Pasture/Pen Management

- Y N Is the dry lot area regularly maintained to prevent manure buildup and areas of stagnant water?
- Y N Do you minimize stocking densities in pastures and pens?
- Y N Do you monitor forage availability to prevent overgrazing? (this results in animals grazing closer to the ground and nearer to fecal pats)
- Y N Do you drag pastures to disperse manure?
- Y N If manure is spread on pastures, do you prohibit animals from grazing the field for a sufficient length of time? (this will vary with weather conditions, age of animals grazing, and diseases of concern; increasing the time to re-introduction will reduce risks)

### 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 an orally spread disease from entering or spreading on your farm. Each farm will be unique in their ability to prevent disease transmission because management styles, herd sizes and finances vary.