

USING THE

Biological Risk Management TOOLBOX

To address the concerns regarding an infectious disease entering or spreading within an animal facility or veterinary clinic, the CFSPH has designed a biological risk management toolbox. It consists of educational materials, an online database containing assessment questions, management recommendations, and resources that enable veterinarians to objectively evaluate their client's facilities or their own clinic and to identify opportunities for improvement. The database and all other BRM Toolbox materials can be accessed at: www.cfsp.h.iastate.edu/BRM. Registration is required to utilize the online database.

Our vision for the use of these resources is as follows:

- A veterinarian begins by reading the Overview of BRM document.
- Next, the area of focus (beef, dairy, equine, mobile or stationary clinic) document should be read. It is designed to refresh knowledge regarding management practices and routes of transmission that influence disease transmission.
- The next step is to have the client or clinic owner complete a pre-assessment questionnaire. This is designed to provide detailed information about the operation or veterinary clinic and guide the veterinarian during assessment question selection. The pre-assessment may identify opportunities or areas of concern needing further investigation.
- After reviewing the pre-assessment, the veterinarian evaluates the client's animal facility or veterinary clinic using a question set created in the online database. The questions are based on routes of disease transmission and designed to be answered yes/no/maybe, with yes being the ideal response.
- By entering the responses to the questions into the online database, several different reports can be generated.
 - Management recommendations will be provided for all questions answered no/maybe. These provide guidance to the producer or clinic owner for implementing improvements.
 - Current prevention practices will highlight the areas of strength on a facility for all the questions answered yes.
 - Routes of transmission charts are generated based on all responses (yes, no, maybe) to identify which routes are most neglected by the animal operation or veterinary clinic and identify opportunities for improvement.
- The final step is to communicate this information to the client, the clinic owner and all employees. Together, a management plan can be designed based on the information provided in the BRM Toolbox to minimize disease risk.
- Goals can be set based on current needs and short- and long-term objectives. Continued assessments should be conducted to chart progress. Resources, human labor, economics, and animal/human health risks need to be considered in the design and implementation of any management plan.