

PERSONNEL (EMPLOYEES, FAMILY, VISITORS) BIOSECURITY TIP SHEET



Limit the people who enter your farm/ranch to those with clean clothing, clean footwear, and clean hands. Clothing, footwear and hands can pick up animal disease germs when they are off-farm. These practices can also protect people from zoonotic diseases that animals can spread to people.

LIMIT WHO COMES IN, WHERE THEY CAN GO AND WHAT THEY TOUCH

Know who comes on your farm/ranch and what other animal contact they have had. Visitors who have their own livestock or come in contact with livestock on other farms may carry disease causing germs onto your farm/ranch.

- Talk with visitors before they enter your operation. Consider having a sign-in sheet with questions about animal contact that includes questions about previous animal contact.
- Create barriers around animal areas to limit unplanned visitor contact with your animals.
- Clearly mark areas that are off limits or where protective clothing is required.
- Limit personal belongings that can be brought into animal areas (e.g., purses, cell phones, keys, sunglasses, etc.).
- Some non-US countries have serious animal diseases that the USA is trying to keep out. Visitors to your farm/ranch may include people who have travelled internationally. Post a sign (or use a sign-in sheet) asking any visitor to inform you of recent (within the last 5 days) international travel. Ask if they were on a farm or near farm animals during their travels. Restrict access for anyone with recent international farm travel who is wearing the same shoes/boots they wore while on the foreign farm, or require boot covers or on-site boots to be worn.
- Posted signs should be in languages understood by frequent visitors.

FARM VISITOR POLICIES

Comply with all posted signs, rules, and biosecurity regulations on this farm. Your cooperation is appreciated for your own safety and the health of our animals.

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- Only enter this farm with permission
- Park at the entrance or in designated parking areas
- Check-in with farm personnel upon arrival and sign the visitor log
- Follow instructions provided by farm personnel at all times
- Leave deliveries in areas designated by farm personnel
- All visitors must be accompanied by farm personnel at all times
- Do not handle or contact animals unless permission is granted by farm personnel

Source: CFSPPH, Iowa State University



An area for workers to dry clean boots as well as change into clean boots.

Source: Danelle Bickett-Weddle, Iowa State University

PEOPLE ENTERING ANIMAL AREAS

All employees or visitors who enter animal areas should be wearing clean clothing and footwear.

- Provide an area for personnel to change out of their outer clothing and footwear and into site-specific footwear and outerwear before entering animal handling areas.
- Ideally, coveralls should be worn by anyone who touches animals. These can be farm dedicated coveralls or disposable.
- Rubber boots with treads that are easy to clean and disinfect are best. Rubber boots should not have buckles/clasps or creases and cracks that could hide germs.
- Disposable boot coverings can also be used. Take care when wearing plastic boot covers as they may be slippery on some surfaces.

- Disposable gloves and/or plastic sleeves should be used if there will be direct animal contact. These are especially important during direct contact with animal tissues or fluids, and ill or isolated animals.
- Trash cans should be provided to collect used, disposable footwear, outerwear and gloves.
- If soiled clothing or footwear is going to be taken off the property, it should be stored in a plastic bag or container until it can be laundered/ cleaned and disinfected.
- Do not allow people to eat or drink in animal areas.

EMPLOYEES

All employees should be familiar with your farm/ranch's biosecurity rules.

- If employees keep livestock at home, they should shower before entering your operation and wear clean clothing.
- Employees should have footwear that is only used on your operation. These could be brought in by the worker or provided by you and stay at the farm. Another option is for employees to clean and disinfect their footwear before entering and before leaving your farm.
- If possible, make laundry facilities available for washing work clothes on-site.
- Employees who are ill should know that for the safety of themselves and the animals, they should stay home.

HANDWASHING

- Provide a sink with running water and soap, a scrub brush, and paper towels for handwashing.
- Post signs in animal areas that promote handwashing before and after animal contact.
- All personnel should wash their hands using soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer can be used if there is no visible dirt on hands, and it contains at least 60% alcohol.



A person putting boot covers on before entering the building.

Source: Pork Checkoff/Flickr (<https://flic.kr/p/GpAqV1>) CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



A person washing their hands before or after animal contact.

Source: Dani Ausen, Iowa State University

ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist to determine areas where you are doing well and others that need to improve.

YES	NO	After answering, pick one or two "No" answers and make an improvement plan with the resources below.
		Do you limit who has contact with your animals?
		Do you restrict people who have traveled internationally from entering your operation?
		Do you provide gloves or a handwashing station with running water, soap, and towels for animal handlers and visitors?
		Do you have barriers in place to limit contact between animals and visitors?
		Do you have signs posted that promote handwashing before and after animal contact?
		Is human food not allowed in animal areas?

MORE RESOURCES:

[Animal Health Status of Regions](#). U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[Biosecurity Training – Farmers and Ranchers videos for Farm and Barn Access](#). Happy Farms Happy Agriculture (HFHA).

[Biosecurity Fundamentals for Extension Personnel \(OSU Extension\)](#). Ohio State University Extension.

[Hosting International Visitors \(Pork\)](#). National Pork Board.

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