

# RIFT VALLEY FEVER (RVF) 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 Rift Valley fever?
- 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 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?

## Mosquito Control- Egg Laying Sites

- Y N Do you add drainage holes to structures and containers that may trap water (barrels, old tires)?
- Y N Do you change or circulate the water in stock tanks, pet bowls and birdbaths at least once a week?
- Y N Do you drain tarps and covers of collected rainwater after a rain (silage covers)?
- Y N Do you pick up and properly dispose of all trash, especially anything that could hold water?
- Y N Do you thin out weeds and remove leaves from ponds to allow natural mosquito-eating fish easy access to areas where mosquitoes lay their eggs?
- Y N Do you grade areas where road ruts, potholes, and hoof prints exist (around stock tanks, ponds)?

## RVF PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST (CONT'D)



- Y N Do you grade newly developed land to prevent standing water for mosquitoes to lay their eggs?
- Y N Do you fill tree holes with sand, mortar or place drainage holes to prevent standing water?
- Y N Do you clean roof gutters to prevent them from becoming clogged and holding water?

### Mosquito Control- Larvae and Adults

- Y N Do you use pesticides only as a supplement to controlling mosquitoes through the reduction and management of mosquito egg laying areas?

CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE OR DEPARTMENT OF PEST MANAGEMENT TO DETERMINE WHICH PESTICIDES ARE APPROVED FOR USE IN YOUR AREA.

### Animals- Livestock

- Y N Do you closely monitor animals every day for any developing illness?
- Y N Have you educated yourself about Rift Valley fever and the signs of infection?
- Y N Have you educated your employees about Rift Valley fever disease and the signs of infection?
- Y N Do you isolate sick animals from the herd in a mosquito-proof building for 30 days to minimize disease spread?
- 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 21 days?

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

### Animals- Other

- Y N Do you keep pets (dogs, cats) kenneled or tied securely?
- Y N Do your neighbors prevent their pets (dogs, cats) from roaming off their farm?

## **RVF PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST (CONT'D)**



### **People**

- Y N Do you protect yourself against mosquitoes by keeping screens on windows and doors in good repair?
- Y N Do you wear pants and long sleeves when you are outside?
- Y N Do you use insect repellent with DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) on exposed skin when outside?
- Y N Do you stop processing animals for meat or necropsy during an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever?
- Y N Do you wear personal protective equipment, such as gloves, coveralls, boots, protective eyewear and a respirator when handling aborted fetuses, birthing tissues, or milking infected animals?
- Y N Do you prevent ill people from entering your farm?
- Y N Do you limit employees to only those necessary for the continued operation of your farm during an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever?

### **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 Is traffic on or off your farm closely monitored and recorded?
- Y N Do you maintain a log sheet to record any visitors or vehicles that come onto your farm?
- 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 RVF-free areas?

### **Neighbors**

- Y N Have you discussed the threat of Rift Valley fever with your neighbors and determined precautions you can take together to protect your farms from becoming infected?

## RVF PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST (CONT'D)



### Visitors and Vehicles

- Y N Have you minimized traffic and visitors to only those essential for the continued operation of the farm?
- Y N Do you require all visitors and vehicles to park near the entrance to the farm in established parking areas away from all animals, barns, and livestock areas?
- 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?
- Y N Do you restrict close contact or handling of animals by visitors (unless necessary for the health of the animal)?

### Cleaning and Disinfection

- Y N Do you clean and disinfect any non-disposable items that come in contact with birthing tissues or fetuses before it is used for another purpose?
- Y N Do you know the common disinfectants that will kill the Rift Valley fever virus (e.g. bleach and Virkon-S)?

### 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 Rift Valley fever from entering your farm. Each farm will be unique in their ability to prevent disease transmission because management styles, herd sizes and finances vary.