

# AEROSOL TRANSMISSION CONTROL



Aerosol transmission occurs when disease agents contained in droplets, like those in the picture below, are passed through the air from one animal and breathed in by another.

Respiratory diseases cause cattle to cough and blow out mucus from their nose. This spreads disease particles through the air and other animals breathe it in and become exposed.

Some diseases that cause diarrhea can also be spread through the aerosol route. Some of the disease agent in the loose stool can attach to moisture droplets or par-

ticles in the air and expose another animal in the same area when they breathe in the contaminated droplets.

Fortunately, most disease agents do not survive for long periods of time within the aerosol droplets because sunlight and air dries them out.

## There are ways to decrease the risk of an aerosol spread disease, such as:



*graphic by Clint May, ISU*

- Increasing the distance between sick and healthy animals
  - Never calve animals in pens with sick animals
- Maximizing ventilation in animal housing areas
  - Provide fresh air to all animals
  - Decrease humidity and odor build up
  - Control dust in dry lots; use water in limited amounts
- Calving heifers separately from cows