

Foreign Animal Disease Biosecurity For the Dairy Producer

Animal diseases, both foreign and domestic, can devastate livestock industries. California, with its multi-billion dollar livestock industry, multiple international ports, more than 15 million international visitors each year, and susceptible livestock populations is very vulnerable to outbreaks of domestic and foreign animal diseases (FAD). California dairies are vulnerable - they contain larger numbers of animals concentrated in small areas, purchase replacement heifers or raise heifers off-site, and most depend on outside sources for feed. Preventive measures are crucial to safeguard California's animals, as the risk of disease is always present. Some basic biosecurity measures can be taken to help prevent introduction and spread of FADs.

Don't Introduce Diseases. Viruses, bacteria, and pests do not respect fences. They can enter your livestock facility by:

- Animals - domestic, wild, pets and insects
- People - bodies, clothing and possessions
- Animal products – meat, dairy products, hides, semen and embryos
- Animal feed, water, bedding, and soil
- Vehicles and equipment
- Air - in aerosols and dust

Develop a Biosecurity Plan. Work with your veterinarian, farm advisor etc. to develop a plan that will work for your dairy. Educate your employees about the importance of following the biosecurity plan. Provide farm personnel with ready access to toilet and hand-washing facilities. Do not allow meat or animal products from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) infected countries to be brought onto your facility.

Visitors

- Limit the number of visitors to your dairy and require all guests to sign a visitor's log*
- Ask foreign visitors to provide information* about recent farm and animal contacts (exclude foreign visitors from livestock facilities for at least five days after their arrival in the U.S.)
- Do not permit clothing, shoes or other articles (such as luggage, cameras, jewelry, and watches) that have been in FMD-affected countries to enter livestock facilities
- If you travel to an FMD-affected country, carefully wash and disinfect all clothing and shoes upon return to the U.S.
- Keep clean protective clothing and footwear available, and require foreign visitors to wear these items prior to entering your livestock facility
- Provide effective boot disinfectant solutions and brushes, and require they are properly maintained and used by all visitors
- Discourage close contact or handling of animals by visitors, and clearly mark restricted access areas*

Vehicles

- Establish a traffic pattern for vehicles that have visited other livestock facilities (such as sales vehicles, rendering trucks, feed trucks, or cattle transporters) to prevent them from entering livestock areas
- Provide facilities for washing and disinfecting the tires of vehicle before they enter livestock areas
- Clean livestock vehicles after visiting another livestock facility or transporting other animals before using them for your livestock
- Designate areas for rendering trucks away from live animals and feed storage areas

Animals

- Provide as much distance between your animals and neighboring animals as possible
- Isolate new additions and animals returning from exhibits for about 30 days, and handle only after care of your other animals
- Isolate sick animals and begin appropriate treatment

- Treat sick animals after all other animals, and wash all contaminating clothing, hands, and footwear
- Clean and disinfect equipment that has been in contact with sick animals, or use equipment dedicated for sick animals
- Handle your young animals before the older animals
- Transport animals in clean vehicles
- Change your clothes and footwear after visiting a livestock facility or show before handling or feeding your animals
- Keep livestock facility clean and pest free
- Remove and dispose of dead animals as soon as possible; use equipment dedicated for this purpose or clean and disinfect the equipment before it is reused to move feed etc.

Manure

- Clean anything that has come in contact with manure or animal secretions before it is used for another purpose
- Clean or replace animal bedding regularly, scrape surfaces clean, and clean solid surfaces with high-pressure hot water and a disinfectant
- Do not allow young calves to come into contact with manure from mature animals
- Prevent manure run-off from other facilities from entering your facility

Feed

- Consider feed sources certified by programs designed to enhance feed quality and safety
- Minimize feed contamination on the farm (e.g. using dedicated equipment to handle feed, cover commodity storage, monitor feed and hay regularly)
- Clean and sanitize feeding and watering equipment and water troughs regularly
- Maintain a vermin control program, and minimize their access to feed

Recognize and Report Diseases. Early recognition and immediate response to livestock disease is critical to containing an outbreak. The first 24 hours are the most important in stopping the spread of a disease or pest. Potential signs of a foreign animal disease include:

Sudden, unexplained death loss
 Severe illness affecting many animals
 Blistering around an animal's mouth, nose, teats, or hooves
 Unusual ticks or maggots
 Staggering, falling, or other central nervous system disorders

If you see signs of a foreign animal disease report them immediately to your veterinarian, then your California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch District Office. Laboratory fees for investigating possible foreign animal diseases or pests are at *no cost to the producer*. If you learn that illegal animals or animal food products are being smuggled into the state, report it to animal health officials (you may remain anonymous). By reporting, you help protect California livestock from the threat of animal disease.

For additional information:

Call the CDFA Animal Health Branch
 Headquarters (916) 900-5002
 Redding District (530) 225-2140
 Modesto District (209) 491-9350
 Tulare District (559) 685-3500
 Ontario District (909) 947-4462
 Or visit on the web: <http://cdfa.ca.gov>

Call USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services
 (916) 854-3950 or (877) 741-3690
 Or visit on the web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

For updates on FADs, visit the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) at: <http://www.oie.int>
 For more information on biosecurity and disinfectants, visit The Center for Food Security & Public Health (CFSPH) at: <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu>

*For sample signs and visitor information documents, visit: http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Infection_Control/Sign