

B-Secure

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When you invest in a home security system, you want to make sure no unwanted visitors' trespass on your property. At a business, security cameras help track who has visited and their locations. On a farm, we would call this "biosecurity" when we restrict access and track information, but we are referring to unwanted microorganisms and how they may be introduced.

Producers are invested in maintaining healthy and efficient cattle. Biosecurity procedures are essential to restrict potentially contagious and deadly microorganisms from entering a farm. These microorganisms can enter a farm through vehicles, animals and even shoes.

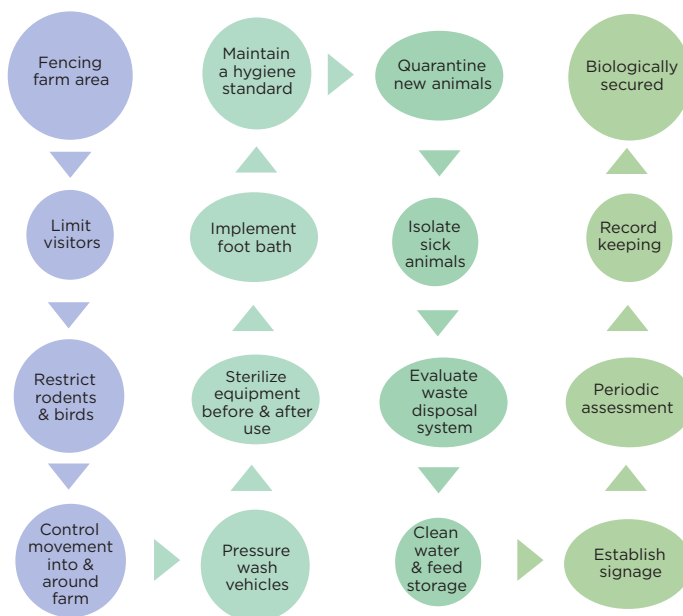
Biosecurity is the process of maintaining farm hygiene, sanitation and traffic control into and out of the farm premises. Many farmers may use parts of a biosecurity protocol like a foot bath or vehicle wash. However, microorganisms need only one opportunity to gain access to a farm. Any person or farm vehicle that visits other farms can bring microorganisms back. Purchased animals also bring microorganisms with them. Two common issues we associate with purchased animals are Johne's (*Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*) and hairy heel wart (digital dermatitis)^[1]. Once these diseases are introduced to a herd, they are very difficult to get rid of.

Limit farm traffic to a single point of entry and exit. This will make implementing sanitation protocols more manageable. Vehicles entering a farm should go through a sanitation procedure or be kept away from animal areas. Make sure personnel entering a farm have not been around another farm's animals. Agents, specialists, veterinarians and industry representatives should wear disposable boot covers when visiting a farm. An additional step to

limit microorganisms is a boot wash station at the farm entrance. All purchased animals should remain in quarantine for at least three weeks^[2]. Your farm should have a well-structured drainage system and disposal facilities.

Stopping microorganisms from entering a farm is only half the equation. Make sure you are not helping spread microorganisms to other farms. Clean vehicles and footwear before leaving a farm. If clothing is contaminated, change before entering another farm. Maintaining biosecurity onto and off of the farm helps keep animals healthy and farms profitable.

B-Secure: Simple steps for your farm



References:

1. Moore, D., et al., *Testing new dairy cattle for disease can boost herd health, cut costs*. California Agric., 2009. **63**: p. 29-34.
2. Sarrazin, S., et al., *A survey on biosecurity and management practices in selected Belgian cattle farms*. Prev. Vet. Med., 2014. **117**(1): p. 129-139.



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