



Why is Biosecurity Important?

Biosecurity means doing everything possible to protect the health of livestock by preventing the transmission of disease. An outbreak of animal disease could not only harm your poultry or livestock, it could affect other nearby animals and quickly spread through your area. The economic consequences of a disease outbreak could be devastating. Taking common sense precautions to prevent disease from coming onto your farm is the best investment you can make.

Give Germs the Boot

You wouldn't think of tracking dirt and disease into your house where it could infect your family. Don't do it to your livestock or poultry either! Germs can be picked up on hands, shoes and clothing and moved from one area to another.

Keep a pair of shoes or boots to wear only around your animals.

Clean and disinfect your shoes. Mix three parts bleach to two parts water in a small, flat tub to kill germs. Use a long handled scrub brush to remove mud, droppings and debris before applying disinfectants. Consult your veterinarian for further details.

Ask visitors and employees to clean their boots and shoes too.

Always wash your hands before and after coming in contact with animals.

Launder your clothes in a washing machine with laundry detergent before you come in contact with your animals.

Maintain programs to control birds, and rodents, which can carry and spread diseases.

Eliminate parasites.

Don't Haul Home Disease

Car, truck or trailer tires can harbor germs too. Taking a few minutes to spray disinfectant over your tires can kill germs you've picked up in parking lots, on dirt roads or in a friend's pasture. If you've hauled livestock or poultry in your trailer, a quick trip through the car wash is advisable before returning home.

Always clean and disinfect vehicles used for moving animals.

Limit traffic of incoming people, products and vehicles that could bring in a disease.

Clean and disinfect all equipment that comes in contact with your animals.

Keep Your Farm Secure

With the increased threat of agricultural terrorism, security is extremely important. Be aware of who is on your property and where they have been. Keep feed and veterinary supplies in a secure location. Prevent people from tampering with feed, supplements or medicines.

Restrict access to your property and animals. Do not allow people who own other animals to come in contact with your animals.

Require proper identification.

Keep doors and gates locked.

Have tracking records on animals.

Give Germs Space

Newly acquired animals should be isolated for at least two weeks to ensure you don't introduce disease to your main herd or flock. As an added precaution, isolate and quarantine new animals for 30 days before

putting them with your other animals. Observe them closely and regularly during that time. Keep show animals segregated for at least two weeks after they've been to a fair or exhibit. Do not mix animal species.

Look for Signs

Unusual animal health symptoms or behavior

Sudden, unexplained death loss in the herd or flock

Severe illness affecting a high percentage of animals

Unusual ticks or maggots

Blisters around an animal's mouth, nose, teats or hooves

Staggering, falling or central nervous system disorders that prevent animals from rising or walking normally

Swelling of the tissues around the eyes and in the neck of poultry

Partial to complete drop in egg and milk production

Production of thin-shelled eggs

Large number of dead insects, rodents or wildlife

Don't Wait—Call in Signs of Disease Immediately

Do not self-diagnose—seek veterinary services as early detection is your best protection. If you have animals with signs of suspect disease, call your local veterinarian, extension agent, or the state veterinarian. Rapid response and investigation are the only ways to control and eliminate disease and stop large numbers of animal illness or death and resulting damage to our economic system.



You are the Best Protection for Your Livestock and Poultry.

Make these simple steps part of your daily routine to decrease the risk of your poultry and livestock getting sick.

LOOK for signs.

Watch for signs of disease or unexpected deaths among the herd or flock.

CALL-in signs of disease.

Don't wait—call in signs of disease immediately. If your poultry or livestock animals are sick or dying, call the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Veterinary Services at 1-866-536-7593 (toll-free), the state veterinarian at 410-841-5810, a private veterinarian, or your local extension agent to find out why.

PRACTICE biosecurity.

Keep your livestock and poultry free from disease. Restrict traffic on your property and disinfect shoes, clothes, and hands to prevent the spread of disease.

Resources

More information can be found on the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs>.

**Maryland Department of Agriculture
Regional Animal Health Laboratories**
Annapolis Headquarters, State Veterinarian
410-841-5810

Centreville
410-758-0846

College Park
301-314-1870

Frederick
301-694-1548

Oakland
301-334-2185

Salisbury
410-543-6610

USDA/APHIS
Area Veterinarian in Charge
410-349-9708



Maryland Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-5810
www.mda.state.md.us

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor
Lewis R. Riley, Secretary
John R. Brooks, DVM, Dep. Secretary

BIOSECURITY:

**The Key To Keeping
Your Livestock
and Poultry Healthy**

