

Biosecurity is a process to protect the health of farm animals and the people that take care of them, or consume their products.

Producers invest money and time to build facilities, develop herds of productive animals, and use carefully balanced rations to ensure peak efficiency. Any decline in herd health will decrease profits and could lead to catastrophic losses.

While the Mad Cow outbreak and the Foot-and-Mouth disease outbreak in Great Britain and other parts of Europe brought the issue to the forefront, there are many diseases and conditions that could be equally damaging to the American livestock industry.

The lesson to be learned from the British experience is that immediate identification of a disease, followed by rapid response is necessary to protect the American livestock industry. All segments of the animal industry will have to participate and cooperate with our veterinary leadership for this to occur.

All processes that slow the spread of a pathogen from herd to herd improve the odds that animal health officials will be able to identify and isolate infected herds.

Biosecurity protocols should be a part of every farm's management plan. Recent concern about animal health has provided an opportunity to develop or refine farm visit protocols. Farms must have visitors to function. These people include AI technicians, veterinarians, feed industry personnel such as delivery truck drivers and equipment repair individuals.

Extension agents and NRCS field agents can set the example for how everyday biosecurity should be conducted.

**The purpose of this brochure is to identify key management techniques that should be the standard for farm visit protocol.**



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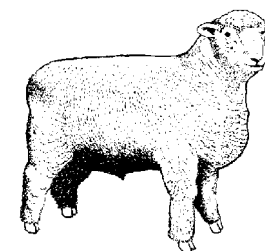
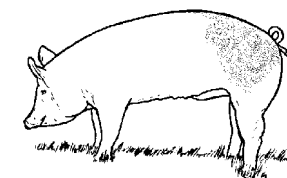
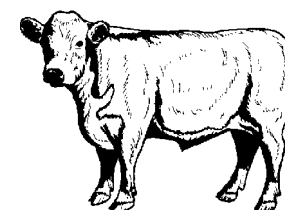
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# BIOSECURITY FOR LIVESTOCK FARM VISITS

**A Farm Visit Guide For Professionals**



**Prepared by Clemson University  
Cooperative Extension Service**

**and**

**Livestock-Poultry Health Programs**

**Printed by SC Farm Bureau**

**Why:** Your use of the proper hygiene techniques to visit livestock farms begins an important teaching process.

- ! Displaying the proper enthusiasm for proper hygiene indicates to the producer that you care about his program.
- ! Your process of preparing to visit his farm teaches that producer how he should prepare to visit another farm.
- ! If you present the image of taking the situation serious, others in the industry will follow suite.

From a practical viewpoint, the Extension Service must continue to educate and earn producer trust in a time of great fear. Understanding how to prepare for a visit, acting responsibly and being consistent will help achieve this trust and respect.

### **Planning a farm visit**

1. Consider what visits must be made throughout the day . If possible, only visit one livestock farm per day. Offer to meet a producer at his house or other business. Will any stop cause health risk to other herds you may visit? Are your visits planned in the best order to protect animal health? If a potentially contagious disease is identified during a visit, cancel all subsequent visits that day.
2. Have you contacted the producer to determine if your visit is welcome?

3. Do you have with you the materials (clothing, boots and disinfectant) necessary to make a secure farm visit?
4. Is it possible to conduct your visit without entering the animal housing area?
5. Have you checked with the producer to determine where vehicles should be parked?
6. Does the farm have an area for disposal of plastic boots, etc? Carry plastic bags to place disposable items in and dispose of them properly. Other bags may be used for dirty clothing.
7. Is there a clean water source convenient for washing hands and boots?

### **Biosecurity Protocols For Farm Visits**

- a. Maintain a clean vehicle. Park away from animal housing areas.
  - b. Keep a record of the farms, dates and time of day. This could be helpful if a disease outbreak occurs.
  - c. Wear clean clothing (or coveralls) on each farm visited.
  - d. Use rubber boots that do not have deep treads. Wash and disinfect boots before and after each farm visit.
- All organic material (manure) must be washed off of boots before disinfecting.**
- e. If the farm has a foot bath, use it.
  - f. If you will carry books or papers, do not carry from farm to farm. Use small amounts of supplies for each farm.
  - g. Carry bucket, brush and one gallon of

water for each farm to disinfect boots. Be sure to use them before and after the farm visit, but before driving away from the farm.

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**Supplies:** The disinfectants in this list are suggestions. It is not intended to be a complete listing of acceptable materials.

**Nolvasan/Chlorasan** - Excellent for washing boots and items such as scales and tag applicators. Material is not as corrosive and is safe for skin contact. Mixing rate is one oz. Per gallon of water.

**DC&R** - Highly effective premise disinfectant. Has residual effect for seven days. Corrosive. Avoid skin contact. Follow label directions for specific applications.

**Household bleach** (Clorox) Used as a .1% Sodium hypochlorite solution..

Make by adding 2 ½ ounces of bleach to one gallon of water. (Excellent quick kill, no residual) Effective against Foot and Mouth disease, African Swine Fever, swine vesicular disease and hog cholera.

For heavily contaminated areas and a wider range of organisms killed, use a 3% solution. Mix 3 gallon of bleach with 2 gallons of water.

**Komfort Guard Disposable Coveralls.** Effective for short time dust exposure to reduce dry particulates. Do not reuse if used to prevent disease spread.

**One-Stroke Environ.** This phenolic compound is **not** effective against Foot-and-Mouth disease or swine vesicular disease.