

Biosecurity Guidelines of National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Controlling Disease within the Herd

- Vaccinate the herd against all endemic diseases (BVD, Clostridia disease, etc.).
- Decrease stress by using low stress management for movement and processing. Provide ample feed, water and shade.
- Isolate all sick animals.
- Minimize fence line contact with neighboring animals.
- Do not place cattle of different ages in the same pen.
- Keep records of all disease occurrences.
- Maintain a closed herd, if possible.

Purchasing Replacement Animals

- Quarantine all new animals for 30 to 63 days.
- Test new animals for disease (BVD, Johne's, Salmonella, etc.).
- Purchase animals from healthy and reputable herds.
- Purchase feeds from reputable sources.

Environmental and Pest Control

- Provide footbaths at entrances and exits of confinement facilities.
- Provide timely manure and dead animal removal.
- Keep grounds and feed bunks as dry as possible.
- Have an insect control program in practice. (Insects can be vectors for diseases such as anaplasmosis and bluetongue.)
- Have a rodent control program in practice.

Disinfection

- Clean and remove as much organic material as possible, before disinfecting.
- Choose a disinfectant that will work against the pathogen you are trying to control.
- Be aware of any toxic, harmful or corrosive effects of the disinfectant.
- Follow the label on the disinfectant package.

Visitors

- Minimize the number of visitors to the facility.
- Be sure all visitors have clean clothing/coveralls, boots and hands.
- Minimize visitors' contact with animals.
- Be sure all equipment brought onto the farm is disinfected or that disposable equipment is used.
- Be sure all vehicles brought to the farm are clean and have disinfected tires.
- Do not allow foreign visitors on the farm until they have been in the country for five days.
- Do not allow foreign visitors to bring any clothing, food or accessories they have had in another country onto the farm.

Employees

- Be sure all employees understand and follow the biosecurity protocol.
- Realize that employee-owned animals can be a possible source of contamination to your facility.