

Biosecurity – It's Everybody's Concern

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Why Be Concerned?

- Since September 11, 2001, biosecurity has taken on a different meaning.
- Disease can have a devastating effect.
- Prevent the introduction and spread of diseases.
- Prevent people from introducing infectious diseases.
- Biosecurity should be a very high priority in day-to-day management.

Critical Control Points

- New additions to the herd.
 - Apparently healthy animals could be incubating diseases.
 - Apparently healthy animals could be carriers.
 - Physically inspect all new animals.
 - Test for diseases of concern.
 - Try to vaccinate before the stress of transport.
 - Quarantine for three weeks.
- Feed and water supplies.
- Minimize contact between different age groups.
- Treat returning animals as if they are new additions.
- Minimize fence-line contact.
- Wildlife (rodents, birds, deer, coyotes, dogs, cats, etc.).
- Use appropriate vaccine handling and administration techniques.
 - Blood-borne diseases.
 - Disposable equipment.
 - Disinfect reusable equipment.
- Use your veterinarian.
- Mechanically transport infectious organisms (shoes, clothing, feeding equipment, trailers, etc.).
 - Wash livestock trailers.
 - Restrict access of people.
 - Provide boot and hand washing facilities.
 - Remove manure contamination.
- Read and follow pesticide labels.
- Vandalism.
- Buy only the amount you need.
- Keep an inventory list (product name, date of purchase, quantity, etc.).

- Inspect storage areas regularly (including feed room).
- Keep storage areas locked.

Farm Security

- Keep equipment locked up (pesticide application equipment, trucks, tractors, etc.).
- Be aware of potential for siphoning or stealing from bulk tanks.
- Watch for unusual or suspicious behavior – people unfamiliar with details of using agricultural equipment; acting nervous, uneasy, or avoiding eye contact; demanding immediate possession of purchased materials and paying in cash. Be aware who is around the farm (roads, driving by, etc.).

Promptly report any thefts of pesticides or equipment and any suspicious behavior to your local law enforcement agency.

Pay attention to what you are doing and to what is going on around you!

References

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- Ranch Biosecurity. May 1998. Practical Health. University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Web Site (www.uaex.edu) – Farm and Home Biosecurity.