

Animal Biosecurity

Farm-Level Animal Biosecurity Incorporating biosecurity into your daily routines



Farms are not as isolated as they once were, and outbreaks of diseases like anthrax and avian influenza (AI) have brought animal health concerns closer to home.

You can help protect your operation and your community by adopting biosecurity practices on your farm.

What is farm-level biosecurity?

Farm-level biosecurity refers to the use of a series of management practices in order to minimize and control animal diseases. It is about protecting animals, the environment, and people's health.

Why is farm-level biosecurity important?

Farm-level biosecurity is important because it helps keep animals healthy by protecting them from disease. This is vital for the sustainability of the Canadian agriculture sector.

The benefits of biosecurity include

- reducing the risk and economic consequences of foreign diseases being introduced and spread in Canada
- reducing the spread of diseases already present in Canada
- maintaining and improving your animal health status to protect your investment
- maintaining access to domestic and international markets
- protecting the health of your family and farm personnel

Introducing biosecurity measures on the farm will strengthen your defence against disease. If disease does occur, those same measures can help limit losses and the impact on your operation and help limit the spread of disease from your farm.

Where do I start?

Take the time to develop a biosecurity plan that works for you. Work closely with your veterinarian and extension specialists, as well as with provincial and federal animal health officers.

To get started, consider the following:

- What disease(s) put your operation at risk?
- How could disease enter, spread within, or move from your operation?
- What measures can you put in place now to help manage the risks?

What measures should I put in place?

Here are some examples of practices that could make up an effective biosecurity plan.

- Create zones on your farm and establish procedures for entry and exit.
- Clean and disinfect vehicles, equipment and footwear before entering a biosecurity zone.
- Control the movement of people, vehicles and equipment on the farm.
- Develop an animal disease response plan.
- Talk about the measures you have put in place with people who work on or visit your farm, such as staff, family, friends and service industry workers.

Once you have determined the measures that will work best on your farm, make them a part of your daily routine.

Who is responsible for farm-level biosecurity?

Healthy animals are everyone's responsibility. To be successful, cooperation and effort is needed from several parties, including

- owners and managers of herds and flocks
- farm employees
- private veterinarians
- provincial and federal governments
- service industries

A single disease event can have implications across the sector, with the potential to shut down not only your operation, but also Canadian exports. Such an event can also undermine public confidence in Canada.

Encourage everyone involved in your sector to adopt good biosecurity measures.

Where can I find out more about farm-level biosecurity?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) offers a farm-level biosecurity planning guide for animal producers. This guide can be used as a reference for good biosecurity practices on farm.

As well, across Canada, federal and provincial governments are working with industry and academia to develop national farm-level biosecurity standards. You are encouraged to develop your farm-specific animal biosecurity protocol(s) based on a national standard.

For more information on farm-level biosecurity please visit

www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity