

PROTECTING THE DAIRY HERD

Farm Activities

Preventing disease introduction and spread depends on awareness and following protocols daily.

ANIMAL INTRODUCTIONS



Incoming cattle can introduce disease to the herd of origin unless quarantined and managed separately for a period of time. Observe, test, and vaccinate as recommended by your veterinarian.



Livestock trailers can carry disease agents. Avoid sharing trailers with other operations unless they are first cleaned and disinfected before returning to farm of origin for use.



Unwanted wildlife, rodents, and insects have the potential to spread a variety of diseases to cattle; utilize integrated pest management programs.

EQUIPMENT



Identify and clearly mark a "Line of Separation" (LOS) between on-site and off-site movements and activities. Inform those who need to cross the LOS of the required biosecurity protocols.



Dedicate equipment to your operation and task whenever possible. Avoid using the same equipment for handling manure, dead animals, and feed unless it is thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and allowed to dry after use.



Instruments or equipment contacting blood, tissues, used in the mouth, or treating sick animals should be cleaned and disinfected between animals of different health status.

CATTLE HEALTH



Recognize and examine sick and lame cattle early and immediately **report** any vesicles on cattle to animal health authorities. This cow has ruptured vesicles on her rear teats caused by Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).



Isolate sick from healthy cattle and manage them separately. Personnel handling sick cattle should be dedicated to that task; with limited personnel, wash hands and all equipment used and change clothing/footwear after working with sick animals.



Ensure carcass disposal plans follow local and state regulations to prevent environmental contamination. Prevent the rendering truck from sharing drive paths with on-site vehicles or passing near live cattle to limit disease introduction. Protect carcasses from scavengers that can spread disease.

PERSONNEL



Wear clean work clothing that has not been around animals on other operations and footwear that can be cleaned when moving between animal groups.



Keep records of animal identification numbers, vaccinations, and treatments given, at a minimum. In a disease outbreak, records of all animal, vehicle, and people movement onto and off of the operation should be kept.



Handle and feed young animals before older animals, leaving sick or treated cattle until last to limit disease spread; or use dedicated equipment and personnel for each group.