



NMPF FARM DATABASE: ENHANCED BIOSECURITY AND THE SECURE MILK SUPPLY PLAN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the FARM Program?

A: The National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program, created in 2009 by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), initially focused on Animal Care. Now more than 99% of the U.S. milk supply comes from farms participating in FARM Animal Care. Additionally, FARM includes Antibiotic Stewardship, Biosecurity, Environmental Stewardship, and Workforce Development. The FARM Program exists to assure consumers and processors in the United States that dairy farmers are doing what is right, using tools to improve best management practices based on science-based standards.

Q: Who is involved?

A: Dairy producers can directly enroll in the FARM Program or work with their cooperative or processor who participates on their behalf. On-farm evaluations are conducted by trained second-party FARM Evaluators who help identify strengths and outline improvements for dairy farms. Animal Care also uses a third-party verification process to ensure the integrity of the program.

Q: Who are FARM Evaluators?

A: To become a FARM Evaluator and certified to conduct second-party Animal Care, Environmental Stewardship, and Workforce Development evaluations, one must apply for the position, complete trainings and then pass an exam. Evaluators can be part-time or full-time; some work independently, others are employed by the dairy cooperative or processor. FARM Evaluators often have spent much of their personal and professional lives involved in the dairy industry in some capacity. There are around 450 FARM Evaluators nationwide.

Q: What is FARM Biosecurity?

A: From 2021-23, the FARM Program was expanded to include FARM Biosecurity. FARM Biosecurity includes online training, a user-friendly database and resources for dairy farmers. In 2025-26, in-person training will be added. These resources are free thanks to funding from USDA to NMPF. FARM Biosecurity: Enhanced, aligns with the Secure Milk Supply (SMS) Plan for Continuity of Business in the event of a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in the U.S. The FARM Database allows producers, FARM Evaluators,



or veterinarians to create a farm-specific SMS enhanced biosecurity plan and upload labeled premises maps. FARM Biosecurity aims to use the network of FARM Evaluators to partner with dairy farmers to develop their plans. There are also handouts and a manual for everyday biosecurity for producers that wish to begin there before using the database for enhanced plans.

Q: How is Biosecurity Plan data protected in the FARM Database?

A: Information and data within the FARM Program database is not subject to public record requests or the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The FARM Database allows producers who wish to share a link with State Officials to review their enhanced biosecurity plans prior to or during an FMD outbreak. Once shared, the State Official gets an email it is ready review. Reviews can be done without downloading any documents. Only biosecurity plans are shareable; no other individual dairy producer FARM Program data are shareable. State Officials have the option to download key data points from plans deemed acceptable. This info can transfer to state and federal permit management systems or databases to track “acceptable” plans for dairies.

Q: How can state officials work together with FARM Evaluators and dairy farmers on SMS Enhanced Biosecurity Plans?

A: If your state is interested in reviewing SMS enhanced biosecurity plans through the FARM Database, follow these 3 steps:

1. Sign up for the online training and database access at: <https://nationaldairyfarm.com/dairy-farm-standards/farm-biosecurity/biosecurity-database-request-form/>
2. Complete the 45-minute online training then email dairyfarm@nmpf.org to request your role in the database be listed as a “State Official”
3. Notify FARM Evaluators, dairy producers, and dairy veterinarians in your state that you are available to review plans and give them an email address to enter into the database when they are ready to share plans

Q: Where can I learn more before signing up?

A: There are several resources to learn more about the FARM Database: Enhanced Biosecurity:

[Using the FARM Database – Enhanced Biosecurity](#) (14 min video)

[State Officials: Reviewing Enhanced Biosecurity Plans in the FARM Database](#) (9 min video)

[Enhanced Biosecurity Prep Guide](#) (PDF)

[Enhanced Biosecurity Database User Guide](#) (PDF)

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