



# EVERYDAY BIOSECURITY

## STEP 2 - SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST: DAIRY

Biosecurity actions are needed daily to help ensure animal health. This checklist applies to:

- Operations of all sizes and management types that raise dairy cattle on pasture or feedlot with or without other animals (e.g., pigs, sheep, goats, poultry, etc.).
- Operations with dairy cattle that have had disease challenges (e.g., bovine viral diarrhea; respiratory diseases caused by BRSV, IBR, *Pasteurella*, *Mannheimia*, etc.; diarrhea caused by Johne's Disease, *E. coli*, *Salmonella* or viruses) or with the goal of preventing disease challenges.
- All individuals working on, delivering to, servicing or visiting the dairy cattle operation.

### BIOSECURITY PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Biosecurity plans do not have to be complex to work. A plan should be written to address your risks and disease management goals. Identify an on-site person to be the Biosecurity Manager and write the plan.

**Step 1:** Fill out the Movement Risks and Biosecurity document.

**Step 2:** Fill out this checklist.

**Step 3:** Use the Everyday Biosecurity Plan Template to write a biosecurity plan, if that is your goal.

Once written, manage biosecurity actions and train others about what is needed. Want to learn more about the topics below? Refer to the FARM [Everyday Biosecurity Manual](#).

- Block 1: Animal Health and Disease Monitoring
- Block 2: Animal Movements and Contact
- Block 3: Animal Products
- Block 4: Vehicles and Equipment
- Block 5: Personnel
- Block 6: Cleaning and Disinfection
- Block 7: Line of Separation (LOS)

Look through the questions below. Answer those that apply to your operation and ignore/cross off the others.

## BLOCK 1: ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE MONITORING

Good husbandry combined with good biosecurity helps animals thrive.



YES	NO	
		Do your animals have access to a clean, dry place to rest?
		Do you have a separate area to isolate sick animals?
		Do animal caretakers work with the healthiest and youngest animals first, then older animals, then sick animals last?
		Do you purchase feed only from reputable sources with a quality control program?
		If the same equipment is used for feed and manure handling, is it thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before used for feed handling?
		Are feeding areas regularly cleaned by removing spilled or leftover feed?
		Do you have a plan to provide water to livestock if it becomes unfit to drink?
		Is clean, quality water available to all animals?
		Are waterers and the areas around them regularly cleaned and debris removed?
		Do you regularly monitor your medicine/vaccine refrigerator for proper cooling temperatures (typically 36-46 degrees Fahrenheit)?
		Do you have a protocol for cleaning multidose syringes?
		Do you have system for animal caretakers to report animal health issues?
		Do you investigate all animals with unusual signs or those who don't respond to treatment, especially sudden deaths?

## BLOCK 2: ANIMAL MOVEMENTS AND CONTACT

Animals moving on and off your dairy can introduce disease unless biosecurity steps are taken. Wildlife, rodents, birds, other animals and flies can carry disease on their fur, feet, feathers or feces. Keeping these away from cattle areas takes effort.



YES	NO	
		Are your livestock individually identified?
		Do you buy animals only from herds with a verified health status?
		Do you record all animal movement on and off the premises?
		Are new or returning animals separated (quarantined) from all other livestock for at least 21 days before contacting the rest of your herd?
		Are dairy cattle from outside sources tested for common diseases before mixing with the rest of your herd?
		If present, are cats and dogs up to date on vaccines and parasite control?
		Are steps taken to minimize bird nesting around your operation?
		Do you use an integrated pest management program to control rodents and flies?

## BLOCK 3: ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Animal products (semen, embryos and milk) can also introduce disease if biosecurity steps are not taken.



YES	NO	
		Do you purchase semen and embryos from operations with equal or stricter biosecurity programs?
		Do all artificial insemination or embryo transfer personnel wear clean clothing and footwear?
		Do you record all semen and embryo movement on and off the premises?
		Do you feed colostrum and milk from sources that minimize the risk of disease spread?
		Do you record all colostrum and milk movement on and off the premises?

## BLOCK 4: VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Animal diseases can be spread by dirty or shared vehicles, machinery and equipment. Use the Step 1 - Movement Risks and Biosecurity document for a list of things that come on or leave farms.



YES	NO	
		Can off-farm vehicles and equipment stay outside animal areas?
		Can you limit entry of dirty and high-risk vehicles, machinery, and equipment?
		Do you have a vehicle parking area that is way from animal areas?
		Are dead animals disposed of in a way that prevents the attraction of wildlife, rodents and other scavengers?
		Are animal areas (housing and holding) regularly maintained to prevent manure buildup?
		Is manure removed and stored to prevent exposing young animals?

## BLOCK 5: PERSONNEL

People who handle animals should be limited to those with clean clothing, clean footwear and clean hands. This can also protect people from zoonotic diseases that animals can spread to people.



YES	NO	
		Can you limit livestock contact to people who follow your biosecurity steps?
		Do you provide/require clean clothing for people contacting animals?
		Do you provide/require clean footwear for people entering animal areas?
		Do you provide gloves or a handwashing station with running water, soap and towels for animal handlers?
		Do people contacting animals sign in and disclose their last known livestock contact?
		Do you restrict people who have traveled internationally from contacting your cattle?
		Are people entering the operation informed of biosecurity steps?

### BLOCK 6: CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Cleanliness has been noted as an important disease prevention practice. Disinfection is an extra step that may be needed to kill germs.



YES	NO	
		Are personnel trained in proper cleaning steps: Dry clean, wash, rinse and dry?
		Do you clean items used on sick, new, young or animals with different health status?
		Are disinfectants used according to the product label (storing, mixing, applying, contact time, rinsing, etc.)?
		Are safety measures (e.g., wearing protective gear, managing runoff) taken during cleaning and disinfection?

### BLOCK 7: LINE OF SEPARATION (LOS)

A Line of Separation between off-farm and on-farm movements can decrease the risk of exposure. Determine ways to put up “castle walls” around your livestock which is protected by a “moat” or a line of separation. Entry is only via “drawbridges” or access points.



YES	NO	
		Do you have designated entry points to your operation?
		Are signs posted at entry points with biosecurity actions?
		Do you have a labeled premises map of your farm?

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