

Reduce the need for antimicrobials in agrifood systems

When developed over time, a biosecurity plan will help you prioritize and manage your biosecurity risks. This ruminant biosecurity checklist represents the best practices for protecting your cattle, sheep or goats from the introduction and spread of pests and diseases.

To develop your ruminant biosecurity plan in stages, tick Y for the practices you currently do, N for those you don't, NR for those irrelevant to your farm and P for those currently high priority to address. Choose 1-3 priority actions at a time to focus on.

Draw a basic farm or grazing area map below, noting the key entry and exit points, clean and dirty zones, livestock housing structures and any demarcated waste sites.

STRENGTHEN FARM BIOSECURITY FOR HEALTH AND WEALTH

RUMINANT BIOSECURITY PLAN

Protect your cattle, sheep and goats from pests and diseases for improved health and wealth.

Plan completed by _____
Date completed _____
Farmer name/s _____
Farm worker name/s _____
Animal health professionals:
Name _____ Contact _____

FARM MAP



RUMINANT BIOSECURITY PLAN

Animal Health Y N NR P 1

Do you check the health and welfare of your animals daily? Sick animal treatment:

Do you identify and isolate sick cattle/sheep or goats from the main group in a quarantine area?

Do you keep them in quarantine for at least 7 days after signs of illness have resolved?

Do you seek animal health professional advice for sick animals?

Do you keep records of:

Sick or injured animals and animal treatments?

Cattle, sheep or goat deaths?

Segregation and Grazing Management Y N NR P 2

Do you ensure that your ruminant livestock do not have contact with other livestock or wild ruminants?

Are your ruminants contained separately to other livestock on your farm?

Are they prevented from roaming freely and mixing with neighboring herds/flocks?

Are they prevented from roaming freely and mixing with wild hooved animals?

Do you practice rotational grazing/pasture resting to minimize parasite load?

Do you separate different ruminant types and ages?

Do you have separate holding or grazing areas for cattle, goats and sheep?

Do you have separate holding or grazing areas for fattening animals, breeding stock and or young animals?

How do you introduce new animals?

Do you ensure that breeding stock and replacement stock are obtained from a reliable source?

Do you make sure they are in good health before buying them?

Where possible, do you test them for high priority diseases like TB/Brucellosis before introducing them to the herd/flock?

Do you keep new animals away from the existing herd/flock for at least 30 days and observe them for signs of disease before introducing them to the herd/flock?

Feed and Water Sources Y N NR P 3

Do you:

Avoid livestock feed getting wet or accumulating moisture to avoid aflatoxins?

Restrict access of all livestock to carcasses, rubbish, dump sites, stockfeed waste and open water sources?

Keep records of any commercial feed provided to your ruminant livestock (e.g., invoices, vendor declarations etc)?

Provide accessible, clean drinking water at all times?

Prevent shared water sources with neighboring flocks/herds, wild ruminants and other wild animals (including wild birds and pigs)?

Animal Disease Outbreak Preparedness Y N NR P 4

Do you know:

Who to call to notify if you see unusual signs of disease or suspect a significant cattle, sheep or goat disease outbreak?

What disease signs in humans might be related to disease in your cattle, sheep or goats?

Do you have a plan for:

Quarantining animals for at least four weeks if movements were not allowed?

Humanely culling animals on-site if required?

Disposing of animal carcasses if required (e.g., deep burial or burn)?

Shed, Equipment and Transport Y N NR P 5

Do you have well-designed animal holding infrastructure? (e.g stalls/kraals/zero-grazing units, milking sheds?)

Is the animal holding infrastructure in a fenced area, at a distance away from other ruminant livestock in your community?

Are the roof, wall and floors constructed to allow free air flow and proper drainage?

Can the floors easily be cleaned?

Do you practice good cleaning and disinfection?

Do you have well-designed animal holding infrastructure? (e.g stalls/kraals/zero-grazing units, milking sheds?)

Is the animal holding infrastructure in a fenced area, at a distance away from other ruminant livestock in your community?

Are the roof, wall and floors constructed to allow free air flow and proper drainage?

Can the floors easily be cleaned?

Do you practice good cleaning and disinfection?

Do you keep the animal holding areas and milking sheds clean throughout the production cycle (floors, walls, roofs, milking equipment)?

Do you make sure that equipment in the animal holding areas and milking sheds is cleaned regularly (drinkers, feeders, milking equipment)?

Do you maintain a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting these areas?

Do you provide dedicated equipment, clothing and footwear for use in these areas?

Do you clean animal holding areas before the arrival of new cattle, sheep or goats?

Do you use disinfectant regularly?

Do you consistently follow the manufacturer's instructions for preparing disinfectant solutions, for commercial disinfectants?

Do you consistently prepare the correct solutions for other disinfectants according to the guidance?

Do you clean and disinfect animal holding or milking areas after a disease has spread in your herd or flock?

Do you ensure that hand wash stations exist on farm premises so people can wash their hands before and after entering animal holding or milking areas?

Are footbaths appropriately used at the entrance of the farm or animal holding areas (with the provision of a scrubbing brush for boots)?

Do you ensure that footbaths are replenished with fresh disinfectant solution daily?

Do you use tyre dips/sprays for transport and visitor vehicles?

Do you clean and disinfect transport vehicles before and after transporting cattle, sheep or goats?

Do you use a livestock trader/transporter that adheres to biosecurity principles and practices?

Other Animals, Pests, Waste and Slaughter Y N NR P 6

Do you practice good waste disposal?

Do you wash your hands with soap and water before and after slaughtering cattle, sheep or goats?

Do you wear personal protective equipment (gloves, mask, overalls, boots) when slaughtering cattle, sheep or goats?

Do you clean and disinfect slaughter floor and equipment after each use?

Do you discard slaughter waste properly?

Not reuse the water used to slaughter/prepare cattle, sheep or goats for cooking?

Not feed uncooked organs/body parts to dogs?

Do you attempt to reduce pests encountering your cattle, sheep and goats?

Do you keep the area around animal holding areas free of stagnant water to reduce the breeding of insects?

Do you practice insect and rodent control in your animal holding areas?

Do you practice good waste disposal?

Do you have managed effluent run off for zero-grazing units or milking sheds?

Are they well-demarcated and a safe distance away from other animal holding facilities or grazing areas?

Are dead animals immediately removed from the rest of the herd/flock?

Do people have appropriate protective clothing and follow hand hygiene procedures after disposing of dead animals?

Do people have appropriate protective clothing and follow hand hygiene procedures when attending animal birthing and removing reproductive waste?

Are people engaged in waste disposal activities (including dead animals) or birthing restricted from handling animals immediately after?

Do you transport dead animals to disposal sites using leakproof materials to prevent contamination of the animal holding areas and environment?

Do you minimize the presence of scavenging birds and rodents at disposal sites by following standard procedures for waste disposal (e.g., deep burial or burning)?

Farm Visitors Y N NR P 7

Do you:

Control access to your livestock by visitors, contractors and equipment?

Minimize visitors to persons needed on the farm, such as community animal health workers, para-veterinarians, veterinarians, animal production officers and other categories of agricultural extension workers?

Restrict livestock traders/transports accessing farm or designated grazing areas?

Restrict people who also keep ruminant livestock or frequently visit other livestock visiting yours?

Have signs explaining biosecurity rules at the entrance to your farm and animal holding areas?

Have clean areas (where your animals are housed and handled) and dirty areas (other parts of the property where access is less controlled) on your property?

Record people's movements into and out of your farm?

Do you consistently ask visitors:

Have they had contact with other animals in the last 48 hours?

Have they been sick with respiratory or gastrointestinal signs in the last 48 hours?

Have they recently returned from far-distance travel?

Farm Workers/Animal Attendants Y N NR P 8

Are farm workers trained in the following practices?

Wash hands, change clothes and footwear before entering the farm.

Wear protective clothing and footwear when carrying out farm operations.

Footwear scrubbed and disinfected when moving between different flocks or herds.

Movement around the farm coordinated to ensure minimize unnecessary contact with animals.

Do not handle animals when sick.

Clothing should be changed when leaving the farm.

Avoid animal rearing activities outside the farm.

Avoid visiting other livestock farms, slaughterhouses, and live animal markets as much as possible.

Avoid working in dirty areas prior to working with animals.

Avoid engaging with animals after doing dirty farm work (e.g., cleaning stalls/kraals/zero-grazing units/milking sheds, effluent management)

Do you:

Provide protective clothing for all farm workers that is clean and comfortable?

Assign farm workers to specific livestock groups to minimize the risk of routine contact with different groups of animals?

Are animal attendants (e.g herders, milkers) aware of zoonotic disease transmission risks?

Drinking raw milk. Boil milk to avoid.

Contact with ruminant urine, blood, birthing fluids/waste. Practice good hygiene to avoid.

Opening a carcass of an animal with signs of death due to anthrax? Deep burial as soon as possible and notify animal health authorities immediately.

Do not eat animals that have died of sickness or disease.

Do not eat undercooked meat or offal.