



Basics of Biosecurity

- Implementing regular preventative veterinary care, such as vaccines, anti-parasitics, etc.
 - Speak to your veterinarian about what you can do to protect your animals.
- Watering and feeding properly prepared foods and stored foods (Safe Feeding Practices)
 - Ensure waterers and the surrounding area are regularly cleaned.
 - Purchase feed from sources with a quality control program. Ensure grain and feed are delivered, stored, mixed and fed in a manner that minimizes contamination.
 - Store feed in a way that keeps wildlife (i.e. rodents) out.
 - Clean up feed spills immediately to reduce scavengers.
- Vector Control (pets, rodents and wildlife)
 - Insects (flies, ticks, mosquitoes, etc.) and other pests can give your animals diseases. Use an on-farm employee or professional company to place and monitor rodent/pest bait.
 - Take steps to minimize bird and rodent nesting around your operation.
 - Prevent cats/dogs from roaming between operations.
- Controlling and monitoring access to your facility (Limit Visitors)
 - People can unknowingly carry diseases on their bodies or clothing. Do not allow anyone that was recently in a country where Foreign Animal Diseases are present to have contact with your livestock or poultry for at least five days after they return to the United States.
 - Do not allow anyone to wear clothing (including footwear) around your livestock or poultry that was worn to other livestock premises or outside the United States.
- Ensuring everyone at your facility understands biosecurity (Educate Employees)
 - Anyone regularly interacting with your animals, including family members, should have proper training on how to “cleanly” enter animal housing areas. For some facilities (such as swine or poultry facilities), this may mean completely showering-in and showering-out. For other livestock facilities, this may mean changing outerwear and using disposable boot covers.



- Controlling movement onto and off your facility with “clean” and “dirty” lines (Stop Horizontal Transmission)
 - The normal “ins” and “outs” for your facility can bring diseases to your animals. This can include “dirty” trucks accidentally carrying germs to your facility as they come and go during part of the normal business day (i.e. delivering feed, removing dead animals, bringing replacement animals, etc.). Reduce this risk by clearly establishing “clean” and “dirty” areas where these vehicles are and are not allowed. Livestock or poultry facilities can further reduce this risk by having vehicles go through cleaning stations before coming on the premises.
- Animal Movement
 - Individually identify animals according to species standards. Record all animal movements on and off the premises.
 - Purchase animals from premises that practice good biosecurity. Isolate new animals for 21-30 days before introducing them to the herd.
- Animal Products (Semen, Embryos, Milk)
 - Purchase semen from operations with good biosecurity. Limit purchases of colostrum/milk to pasteurized sources.
 - Record all semen/embryo/milk/colostrum movements on and off the premises.
- Animal Health/Disease Monitoring
 - Ensure staff/family working with animals follow good animal handling practices and know the signs of disease. Designate a separate area to isolate sick animals and ensure animal caretakers work with the healthiest and youngest animals first, then older animals, then sick animals last.
 - Develop a system for caretakers to record health treatments and report animal health issues. Investigate all animals with unusual signs or those who do not respond to treatment. This may mean notifying your herd/flock veterinarian or the Missouri Department of Agriculture.



- Properly removing dead animals and animal waste (Disposal)
 - Dead animals and animal waste should be removed from areas housing live animals as quickly as possible. Remove using a separate entrance/exit from the one used to bring live animals into the facility. Know the approved options for carcass disposal in Missouri ([Disposal of Dead Animals Law](#)). Ensure the disposal method used prevents the attraction of wildlife, rodents and other scavengers.
 - Ensure animal housing is regularly maintained to prevent manure buildup and that the manure is removed and stored to prevent exposing young animals to disease agents.

- Maintaining a clean environment (Cleaning and Disinfection)
 - When cleaning areas that house animals, remember the saying, “you can’t disinfect dirt.” This means you must clean before disinfecting. Most disinfectants do not work in the presence of organic materials like dirt, dust and animal waste. Different disinfectants require different minimum contact times to work and longer times in cold temperatures. Follow the instructions on the label for the disinfectant you are using. Work with your veterinarian to develop the most effective cleaning and disinfection protocol for you.