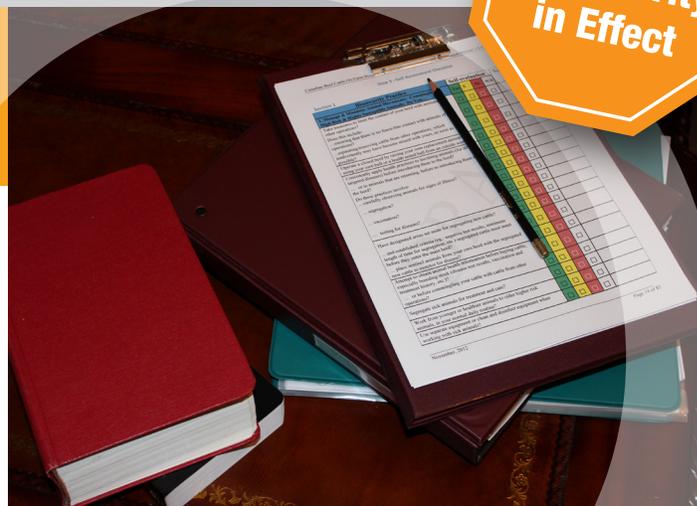




Healthy animals – Biosecurity and the beef industry



Educate, plan and record

Educating staff and visitors about the importance of biosecurity and the practices employed on farm is important to maintaining animal health. Personnel and visitors that are aware of biosecurity and potential disease risks can take action to enhance biosecurity within their operation and their industry.

Educate staff

Personnel (owners, managers, staff and family) should understand biosecurity and the role they play in maintaining it on farm.

Develop a biosecurity plan

Develop a biosecurity plan that addresses the specific needs of the operation and evaluate it regularly. The plan should document protocol and practices for the following key areas:

- sanitation
- incoming animals
- deadstock and manure disposal
- initial disease response and high-risk biosecurity

Standardize animal health procedures

Staff should know how to identify and respond to a range of animal health situations typical to the operation. Documenting standardized approaches will allow producers to better communicate with personnel and can help evaluate an operation's disease response procedures over time.

Discuss disease response

An unusual animal health situation such as a spike in disease or deaths, should signal to staff that action is required. Documenting and discussing protocols for these types of occurrences may help limit the impact of the event on an operation and on the industry.

Practice records management

Building a history of events on farm provides a baseline to draw on should an animal health event occur. For example, records could be used to identify a mode of disease transmission, which could then be altered to avoid reoccurrences in the future. If an unusual animal health situation, such as a foreign animal disease outbreak, were to occur, these records would be critical in identifying potentially exposed herds.

This knowledge would increase the ability of disease control personnel and producers to successfully contain the disease outbreak, safeguarding the health and welfare of other livestock and the economy. Here are some examples of records that could be kept on farm:

- visitor access to production areas
- movements, including comingling, purchases and sales
- medical treatments such as vaccinations
- feed purchases and usage

Learn more about biosecurity

These are just a few of the recognized biosecurity practices that producers can use to manage the disease risks on their operation. For more information on biosecurity, or to obtain a copy of the Canadian Beef Cattle On-Farm Biosecurity Standard, please visit: www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity.