BIOSECURITY: Protecting your animals from disease

How is disease spread?
- Contaminated clothing and equipment
- Contact with infectious secretions from the mouth, nose, eyes, and excrement
- Movement of sick animals

Keep animals healthy
Keeping your animals healthy will prevent illness from disease or minimize the impact of illness on your production.

Buy or borrow from a safe source
Buy, or borrow animals from clean herds that also practice biosecurity. Don’t buy or borrow from herds or people that you don’t know.

Keep it clean
Clean and sanitize all equipment, feeders, tools, and boots/clothing when leaving an area and between groups of animals.

Keep wildlife out
Build barns, fences, and working areas to keep wildlife out. Don’t let your animals out in areas that wildlife has access to. Don’t use feeds or forage from areas that have disease outbreaks.

Don’t carry disease home
Clean equipment, vehicles, and clothing before returning from other farms, shows, and events. Make sure employees keep their vehicles and clothing clean.

Limit visitors
Limit visitors and don’t allow visitors on your farm if they have had contact or come from areas with sick animals.

Isolate new animals
Animals returning from shows or events, new purchases, or sick animals should be isolated from your herd for at least 30 days. Handle and work with isolated animals last.

Write a biosecurity plan
Write and implement a biosecurity plan for your farm addressing access points for disease to get onto your property, proper cleaning and sanitization practices, isolation protocols and training of staff. Review your plan every year.

Updated 12/2021