

DEP
BIOSECURITY
PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES
July 1, 2006

Because of the variety of disease pathogens and the potential for periodic disease outbreaks and alerts, biosecurity is an important consideration for both animal facility operators and regulatory staff. Human traffic can be a factor in disease transmission between livestock herds. Therefore, all DEP staff with the potential of visiting livestock facilities on official business shall be knowledgeable of appropriate biosecurity measures. Staff conducting inspections or other official business at livestock operations shall exercise these procedures to minimize the possibility of transmission of animal disease. For an Animal Disease Outbreak situation, specific guidance, determined by the nature of the disease, will be established by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The Department will work closely with PDA if an outbreak occurs.

1. If possible, contact the operation owner or manager before arriving on site to determine what biosecurity protocol is used at that operation and follow that protocol if it meets or exceeds the Department's. Unannounced inspections are permitted, especially if the inspector knows the biosecurity protocol at the operation, but the inspector should make every effort to contact the operator or person in charge upon arrival.
2. Park in a clean area away from the livestock, livestock handling areas, and feed storage and do not drive through manure, run-off, or animal concentration areas. If vehicle travel around the operation is necessary, try to use on-facility vehicles.
3. Wash and sanitize your hands.
4. Put on clean, waterproof, disposable boot covers or rubber boots that can be disinfected. Some facilities may not require this, but it is recommended that the boots or boot covers be worn. Plastic boot covers should only be used for short visits.
5. Clean clothing, coveralls, or disposable coveralls should be worn.
6. Unless absolutely necessary, do not enter the animal housing or feeding areas. If inspecting livestock areas, start with young stock and move to older animals. Avoid walking through manure or feed. Avoid sick animals.
7. If taking samples, wear disposable gloves and bag after using. Disinfect equipment before and after use. Wash and sanitize your hands.
8. Once back at the vehicle, remove and bag boot covers or clean and disinfect rubber boots with a commercial phenol or peroxygen based disinfectant. Properly dispose of disposable coveralls if used. If reusable coveralls were used, remove and separately bag them. Wash coveralls before using them again.
9. Wash and sanitize your hands.
10. If inspecting livestock facilities, do not visit more than one operation with the same animal type per day. If visiting more than one operation, tell the operator that you've been to another farm before you begin the inspection. Farm visits are not limited to one operation a day if the facility does not have livestock.
11. Dispose of boot covers, paper towels, etc. at the facility if possible, or end of the day at your office's refuse disposal.

Other Guidelines and Considerations

Staff taking employees or interns, who are not familiar with this biosecurity policy, to a livestock operation will advise them of all appropriate biosecurity measures needed for the visit and ensure that the protocols are followed.

On a case by case basis, operations with multiple facilities under the same management with the same livestock type may be visited on the same day with the owner/operator's permission.

Rubber boots should be cleaned of all debris, especially manure, before disinfecting. Boots with minimal tread are easier to clean.

If the vehicle comes in contact with manure, run-off, other possible animal contaminated fluids, take it to a car wash before visiting another livestock operation.

Guidelines for Animal Disease Outbreak Situations

The following is meant to give a sense of heightened biosecurity procedures that may be required in an Outbreak Situation. In these situations, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will develop specific guidance for industry participants and visitors.

Traffic Flow

- Vehicles may be required to be parked off-premises.
- Vehicles that enter premises may be required to be cleaned and disinfected before exiting premises.
- Vehicles may be required to be washed after leaving premises.
- Visiting multiple operations the same day may be prohibited.

Disinfection

- Use of specific disinfectants and procedures may be required depending on the nature of the disease outbreak. Certain disease pathogens are time-sensitive and disinfection protocols may include the passage of time.

Protective Clothing

- Non-porous disposable coveralls, gloves, hair caps, face shields, respirators, etc could all be required depending on the nature of the disease outbreak.

Equipment

- Equipment may be quarantined and confined to the operation where it was used for a period of time depending on the nature of the disease outbreak.