



KEEPING YOUR DAIRY CATTLE HEALTHY

No matter your daily operations, a good biosecurity plan is crucial to protecting the health and productivity of your cattle. Diseases can be introduced to your cattle through infected animals or livestock, insects, and the farm environment. By enhancing your biosecurity routine, you can mitigate the risk of common viral or bacterial diseases that could negatively affect your herd. If unusual or persistent illness presents, consult your local veterinarian for diagnostic testing.

Keep It Organized

- Work with your veterinarian to develop a clear vaccine, testing, and treatment program for your herd.
- Apply official electronic identification tags to cattle for quick and efficient record keeping.
- For animals transported on/off the farm, have a designated area for loading and unloading that is away from the main areas of animal housing. For example, a designated pick-up spot for a calf hauler so they're not driving through the farm to pick up animals.
- Ensure trucks making feed deliveries have a designated route to the feed center that maximizes the distance from the main areas of animal housing.

Keep It Clean

- Empty and clean feed and water containers regularly, and more often if dirty.
- Keep feed and manure handling equipment separate.
- Continuously change needles when administering vaccinations to prevent spreading pathogens amongst the herd.
- Disinfect equipment, bottles, feed buckets, trucks, trailers, and boots regularly with bleach or other disinfectants to prevent bacteria or virus spread.
- Wash tires on vehicles entering and exiting the farm; milk trucks should wash tires and undercarriage between every load.
- Wash and disinfect tires on trucks and trailers used to haul animals to livestock markets or processing plants.

Keep It Secure

- Maintain good barriers and fences between cattle groups and to keep out wildlife.
- Restrict nose-to-nose contact between livestock from other premises.
- Limit contact with people from other premises.
- Secure all foot traffic by requiring the use of protective measures such as boot covers or foot baths on your premises.
- Secure feed and water to protect from pests and contaminants.
- When moving cattle around the farm, move from most to least susceptible or from young to old and healthy to sick cattle.
- When introducing cattle into the herd, isolate new cattle for 30 days to ensure they don't spread disease or pests.
- When purchasing cattle, ask for the breeding, calving, vaccination, and treatment history.

