

# Biosecurity



## How to Protect Your Livestock when Hosting International Visitors on Your Farm

Any visitor could introduce disease onto a farm. International visitors, however, are a higher risk of introducing diseases that are not present in the U.S.

Just how much of a risk visitors pose varies based on the country visitors are traveling from and if they have been around animals. For example, a visitor from a country with foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a greater risk than a visitor from a non-FMD country.

Your farm may have stricter biosecurity protocols, but this fact sheet includes recommendations to follow when hosting international visitors.



**Restrict visitors to those who have been preapproved.**

Restricting and preapproving visitors helps you control which visitors to allow. You should discuss site biosecurity measures with visitors prior to their arrival.

**Require international visitors to have seven days minimum of no animal contact before arriving on your farm.**

Ensuring visitors have not had animal contact for at least seven days reduces the risk that the visitor will carry a number of diseases onto your farm.

**Require all visitors to sign in on a visitor log.**

The log should include who was there, where they are from, the date of their visit, what areas of the farm they visit, and why they are visiting.

**Instruct visitors to shower prior to arrival and to wear clean clothes and footwear to the farm.**

The chances of bringing a disease onsite are reduced when visitors shower prior to arrival and wear clean clothes and footwear to the farm. Coveralls and disposable or washable footwear (rubber boots) should be worn when entering areas where animals are located. Ideally, your farm should provide clean coveralls and washable footwear coverings for visitors to wear while on the premises.

**Provide site-specific footwear and coveralls or clothing for all visitors to wear.**

You should provide site-specific apparel to all visitors to ensure they do not bring a disease onto or off of your farm.

**Provide hand washing stations for all visitors.**

**Direct visitors to park in a designated area away from animal areas.**

Disease can travel on a vehicle's tires or undercarriage. Park vehicles away from animal areas. This reduces the chance of disease carried on vehicles will infect animals.

**Keep an escort with visitors at all times.**

An employee should meet with visitors when they arrive and stay with them during their visit. This ensures that visitors stay out of restricted areas and follow all biosecurity practices at the facility.

**Prohibit personal items that visitors cannot disinfect.**

Disease can travel on personal items such as cell phones and jewelry. If you cannot disinfect the item, instruct visitors to leave it in their vehicle.

**Prevent animal contact by visitors.**

Keep visitors out of animal pens to reduce the possibility of disease transmission to animals.

**Protecting Livestock and People**

As part of a One Health approach, you should also consider public health as part of protecting the health of your animals. Some diseases are zoonotic, meaning animals can transmit disease to people and people can transmit disease to animals. Using a One Health approach supports healthy people and animals on your farm that is part of a global effort to achieve optimal health through disease prevention. Learn more about One Health at <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/index.html>.

**Prohibit visitors from bringing any food items to the farm.**

Do not eat or drink in areas where you keep livestock, including areas with equipment used for handling animals. Remind visitors to wash their hands with soap and water after their visit and before eating. More health and safety information is available at

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/occupational-health/farm-health.htm>.

**More Information**

For additional information on this or other livestock related biosecurity concerns visit [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/BasicBiosecurity.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/BasicBiosecurity.aspx). You can also contact the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Division of Animal Health at (608) 224-4872 or [datcpanimals@wi.gov](mailto:datcpanimals@wi.gov).



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Division of Animal Health

<https://datcp.wi.gov>

P-DAH122 (12/2019)