Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council

Biosecurity: Protecting Your Livestock and Crops

Visitor Log Book

Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council

Our membership includes livestock and poultry groups, agri-business, veterinary associations, the Animal Health Lab, University of Guelph, OMAFRA, CFIA, Ministry of Health and Long-term Care and OSPCA.
The OLPC facilitates biosecurity and emergency management preparedness relating to foreign animal disease and other transmissible livestock and poultry diseases.

Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council
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Ontario Livestock & Poultry Council

A forum to facilitate biosecurity and emergency management preparedness relating to foreign animal disease and other transmissible livestock and poultry diseases.

Access Management

- Post restricted entry signs
- Lock gates and building doors
- Maintain a visitor log book
- Designate visitor parking area and entrance
- Hand washing, sanitation, clean footwear, coveralls, etc.
- Restrict any unnecessary contact with animals and crops

TIP: Visitors coming to look at your production facility? Entertaining prospective international buyers? Insist they clean their boots or, better yet, purchase some plastic boot covers or rubber boots that are never removed from your premises and are disinfected regularly.

TIP: When using a hand sanitizer, be sure to use enough to cover all surfaces of your hands, including between your fingers, and rub your hands until they are dry. Also, the alcohol content of the sanitizer must be at least 60% to be effective.

What are some first steps for on-farm biosecurity?

Animal Health Management

- Purchase replacement animals from herds of known disease status.
- Isolate any new animals or animals returning to the herd/flock.
- Establish separate pens for isolation, sick livestock, new arrivals and maternity pens. Sick pens should only be used for sick animals.
- House young livestock away from older animals where appropriate.
- Minimize disease spread by working with livestock from youngest to oldest and healthy to sick.
- Clean and sanitize nursing bottles and buckets after each feeding.
- Prevent nose-to-nose contact with animals from neighbouring farms.
- Include pets and working dogs/animals in your biosecurity plan.
- Establish a herd health program.
- Observe and inspect livestock daily for early detection of disease.

TIP: When shipping livestock from your farming operation, haulers should not be allowed inside your facilities or have contact with livestock remaining on the farm.

TIP: Have separate equipment and tools for handling manure and feed. Mark your forks and shovels with coloured duct tape or paint to identify which is for manure and which is for feed. This applies to tractor buckets as well. You should avoid scraping manure with the same bucket used for taking feed out of the bunk.

Plant Health Management

- Check plant material coming on to or moving off your property to assess it for the risk of disease or insects.
- Use certified 'free from pests' seed or propagation material and use trusted suppliers.
- Plant resistant or less susceptible varieties, when available.
- Maintain cropping records for each field which include: crop, variety, seeding rate and date, pesticide use, fertilizer and manure use (date applied and rate), irrigation, etc.
- Prior to renting, leasing, or buying land, inquire about its biosecurity status (historical land use and ownership, pest status of the area, etc.).
- Use modern integrated pest management tools (chemical, biological, physical).
- Ensure a crop rotation plan is in place as this helps to break the pest cycle.
- Implement a disposal system for plant debris to remove all sources of the pest, e.g. weed seed, crop wastes, cull piles, dropped fruit from the field or orchard. Some insects and disease may overwinter in crop refuse.
- Routinely inspect your crop and record pest surveillance activities, even when nothing is found.

TIP:

- Source seeds and plant propagation material from reputable suppliers.
- Store seeds, plant material and crop input supplies in a designated area to prevent contamination by pests.
- Source seed/seedlings/ rootstock and other crop inputs from suppliers that operate under a quality assurance program that has a biosecurity component.

How can you protect your crops and livestock?

Operational Management

- Routinely clean and disinfect footwear, equipment, buildings and barns (as appropriate).
- Keep your equipment clean; this includes machinery and tools such as hoof trimmers, shearers, etc.
- Avoid sharing manure handling equipment with neighbours.
- Remove dead livestock immediately and dispose of them in an approved manner.
- Designate equipment for clean jobs (feeding) and dirty jobs (manure handling and carcass disposal).
- Implement a pest control program; animals, birds and insects can spread pests and diseases on their feet, fur, and in their feces.
- Have a written biosecurity plan that is updated regularly.
- Ensure that employees and family members receive proper training.
- Discuss your biosecurity expectations with visitors and service providers (e.g. crop inputsuppliers, custom operators, veterinarians, animal health technicians, feed/seed delivery, etc.).
- Maintain a good record keeping system for crop production activities and animal health issues.

A rat deposits 25,000 droppings and a mouse 17,000 droppings in one year. Even a small population of these rodents may severely contaminate feed and seed supplies. Flies are also a frequent carrier of disease and have been shown to travel up to 1½ km from farm to farm.

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WWW.ONTLPC.CA

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TODAYS' TIP: Routinely clean and disinfect footwear, equipment, buildings and barns (as appropriate).

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TODAYS' TIP: Avoid sharing manure handling equipment with neighbours.

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TODAYS' TIP: Remove dead livestock immediately and dispose of them in an approved manner.

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TODAYS' TIP: Designate equipment for clean jobs (feeding) and dirty jobs (manure handling and carcass disposal).

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TODAYS' TIP: Implement a pest control program; animals, birds and insects can spread pests and diseases on their feet, fur, and in their feces.

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TODAYS' TIP: Snowmobiles and ATVs travelling across multiple farms can spread pathogens and pests.

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TODAYS' TIP: Observe manure storages and surrounding areas for weeds that are growing in the manure pile or liquid storage. The weeds here have proven to be viable in manure and can be transported to the field

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TODAYS' TIP: Avoid moving soil between fields and biosecurity zones. This includes landscaping soil and/or construction site soil from other areas of the farm.

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TODAYS' TIP: Have a written biosecurity plan that is updated regularly.

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TODAYS' TIP: Ensure that employees and family members receive proper training.

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TODAYS' TIP: Discuss your biosecurity expectations with visitors and service providers (e.g. crop input suppliers, custom operators, crop scouts, etc.).

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TODAYS' TIP: Ensure feed and water is kept clean.

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TODAYS' TIP: Ensure clean teats and udders for nursing young.

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TODAYS' TIP: Remove dead livestock immediately and dispose of them in an approved manner.

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TODAYS' TIP: Wash farm clothing separately from other household laundry – hot water and thorough drying.

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TODAYS' TIP: Maintain a good record keeping system for vaccination, medication, footbath changes, disease occurrences, mortalities, rodent bait changes, livestock movement in and out, etc.

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TODAYS' TIP: Talk to your veterinarian, feed delivery, animal health technicians, etc. regarding your biosecurity expectations.

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TODAYS' TIP: Use certified 'free from pests' seed or propagation material and use trusted suppliers.

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TODAYS' TIP: Plant resistant or less susceptible varieties, when available.

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TODAYS' TIP: Maintain cropping records for each field which include: crop, variety, seeding rate and date, pesticide use, fertilizer and manure use (date applied and rate), irrigation, etc.

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TODAYS' TIP: Prior to renting, leasing, or buying land, inquire about its biosecurity status (historical land use and ownership, pest status of the area, etc.).

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TODAYS' TIP: Use modern integrated pest management tools (chemical, biological, physical).

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TODAYS' TIP: Ensure a crop rotation plan is in place as this helps to break the pest cycle.

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TODAYS' TIP: Implement a disposal system for plant debris to remove all sources of the pest, e.g. weed seed, crop wastes, cull piles, dropped fruit from the field or orchard. Some insects and disease may overwinter in crop refuse.

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TODAYS' TIP: Routinely inspect your crop and record pest surveillance activities, even when nothing is found.

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TODAYS' TIP: Purchase replacement animals from herds of known disease status.

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TODAYS' TIP: Isolate any new animals or animals returning to the herd/flock.

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TODAYS' TIP: Establish separate pens for isolation, sick livestock, new arrivals and maternity pens.

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TODAYS' TIP: House young livestock away from older animals where appropriate.

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TODAYS' TIP: Minimize disease spread by working with livestock from youngest to oldest and healthy to sick.

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TODAYS' TIP: Clean and sanitize nursing bottles and buckets after each feeding.

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TODAYS' TIP: Prevent nose-to-nose contact with animals from neighbouring farms.

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TODAYS' TIP: Include pets and working dogs/animals in your biosecurity plan.

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TODAYS' TIP: Establish a herd health program.

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TODAYS' TIP: Observe and inspect livestock daily for early detection of disease.

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TODAYS' TIP: Post restricted entry signs.

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TODAYS' TIP: Lock gates and building doors.

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TODAYS' TIP: Maintain a visitor log book.

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TODAYS' TIP: Designate visitor parking area and entrance.

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TODAYS' TIP: Restrict any unnecessary contact between visitors and animals and crops.

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TODAYS' TIP: Insist visitors clean their boots or, better yet, purchase some plastic covers or rubber boots that are never removed from your premises and are disinfected regularly.

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TODAYS' TIP: Have separate footwear designated for barn use only and do not wear off the farming premises.

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TODAYS' TIP: Be sure to use enough hand sanitizer to cover all surfaces including between your fingers, and rub your hands until they are dry.

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TODAYS' TIP: When attending fairs, shows, and exhibitions, do not share equipment, tack, bedding, feed and water buckets or trailers; use your own halters and clippers rather than borrowing them.

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TODAYS' TIP: Ensure (don't presume) workers are knowledgeable in recognizing signs of disease.

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TODAYS' TIP: Contact a veterinarian if you see unusual rates of disease or unexplained death.

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