

Dairy Biosecurity Workshop Farm Case Study

This fictional farm example will illustrate and explain some of the key biosecurity points outlined in the National Standard for Biosecurity for Canadian Dairy Farms. The questions related to the farm case will prepare you for completing your own farm self-assessment and action plan.

Farm Management and Lay-out:

John and Jane Smith own a 100-cow dairy operation. Both work full-time on the farm. They have two children, 12-year old Patsy and 10-year old Bob. The home farm is comprised of 100 acres and the Smiths also own the adjoining 100 acres to the East.

There is one primary laneway to the property which branches off toward the house, the milk house or toward the back of the barn. (See diagram on following page) There is a parking area at the house and, while not signed as parking, is quite distinguishable as it is a square, gravelled area. There is also a five foot gravel perimeter around the milk house. The milk truck picks up milk every other day and the driver always signs the visitor log book kept in the milk house. EastGen technicians are also frequent visitors and the hoof trimmer comes two to three times per year.

The power washer for cleaning the milk house and field equipment is kept in the milk house. Equipment is washed on the gravel area adjacent to the milk house. John and Jane try to keep the door to the milk house firmly closed as Patsy has two housecats that try to sneak into the milk house when they are let outside.

The dairy cows are housed in a newer free stall barn; the calf hutches are located on the South side of the barn. The Smiths work very closely with a herd veterinarian. There are designated calving pens and sick pens. John and Jane scrape out and spray down the sick pens with disinfectant after use. John painted the handles red on the shovels and forks to be used for cleaning out the pens so that they wouldn't accidentally be used for feed. They would like to purchase a second bucket for their tractor so that there could be designated buckets for feed and manure. The deadstock collection area is located behind the barn near the manure storage. There is no type of structure or pad but the deadstock truck driver is familiar with the farm and knows where to go when he is called for a pick up.

There are also three riding horses on the farm. Patsy owns two and her friend boards her horse there as well. There is a separate horse barn and paddock. Usually the horses are pastured in separate fields from the cows.

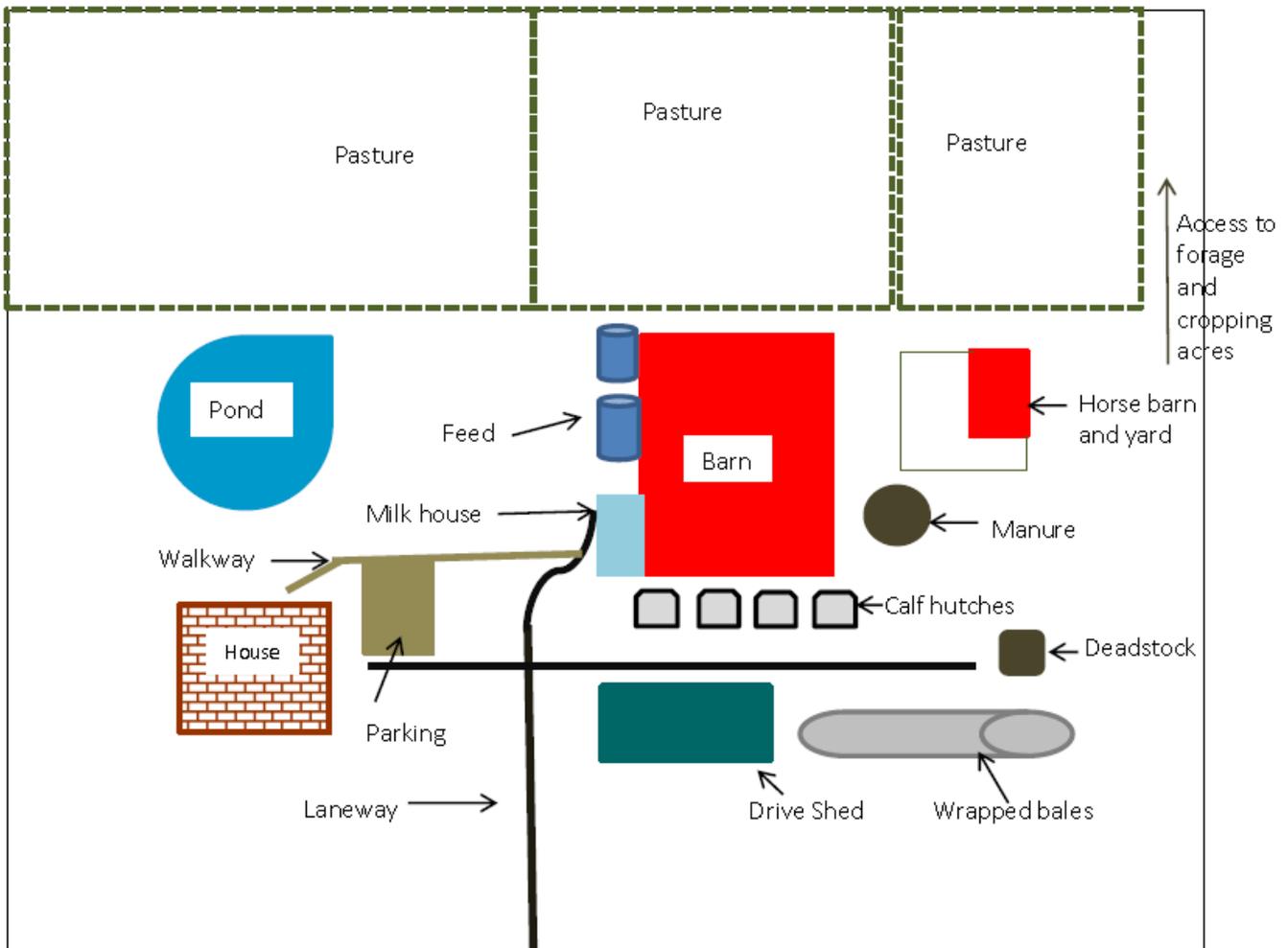
Jane keeps a footbath just inside the entrance to the milk house for visitors but she has noticed most are not diligent about scrubbing the dirt off their boots with a brush she keeps handy before stepping into the footbath. She used to have disposable boots for visitors but could never find the box when she needed it so opted for the footbath. There is also a bottle of hand sanitizer somewhere in the milk house.

The barn and house use water from a drilled well. They do not use water from the large pond for the herd as Jane is concerned about bacterial contamination from the large flocks of geese that gather there in the spring and fall. The birds often graze on the pastures and crop land as well.

The Smiths' dairy herd is pastured only on their home farm. They harvest forages from both farms as well as wheat in a rotation with corn and soybeans. The wheat straw is used for bedding. The house on the second farm is rented. There is an old bank barn on the property that the renters use for two riding horses, a half dozen pygmy goats, some free range laying hens, and two pot-bellied pigs. John spreads the manure from the menagerie on the crop land adjacent to the bank barn in the spring and fall.

The farm to the West of their home farm is a sheep farm. Their son Bob is good friends with the young boy that lives on that farm and spends a lot of afternoons there in the summer playing around their farm. The sheep flock is grazed on pasture but the fields do not border those used by the Smiths for pasturing their cattle so they are not concerned about disease spread between the two farms.

Diagram of Farm Layout



Farm Case Study Questions

In many cases, there is no single correct answer. The choice of action may depend on several factors, and what is practical and achievable under the circumstances.

1. Where and by what methods might this farm establish their CAZ, RAZ and CAPs?
2. List **three** access management issues faced by this farm and identify some possible changes they could make to reduce these risks.
3. Identify **three** biosecurity risks on this farm related to animal health management and suggest how these risks could be mitigated.
4. Identify **three** operational management biosecurity risks with this farm and list some possible solutions.
5. What is this farm doing that would be considered good biosecurity practices? List at least **five**.