

Appendix AM.11

Biosecurity policy

Better Biosecurity:	Disease spreads by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protects your neighbours and the countryside. ■ Keeps new diseases out. ■ Reduces the spread of disease. ■ Keeps more animals healthy. ■ Cuts costs of disease prevention and treatment. ■ Improves farm efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Movement of animals, people and machinery between and within farms. ■ Farm visitors – people and vehicles. ■ Introduction of new animals. ■ Contact with neighbours' livestock. ■ Shared farm equipment. ■ Contamination by vermin and wild birds. ■ Animals drinking from contaminated rivers and streams.

The following provides examples of points which may be included in your biosecurity policy. Any plan needs to be farm specific related to the health risks facing your farm as required in the Animal Health Plan (see AH.3)

Incoming Stock – New stock or returning your stock to the farm

- Establish a policy for introducing new stock. Ideally source directly from known sources, which have a similar health status.
- If purchasing animals of unknown disease status, take measures to reduce the risk of bringing in health problems to your existing stock. These might include establishing the health status on the source farm, veterinary examination or testing of the animal(s) before introduction to existing stock, and observing a quarantine period.
- Use separate equipment and staff or handle isolated stock last.
- Ensure the isolation facility / quarantine area is fit for purpose so that it does allow animals to be sufficiently separated to avoid the transmission of infectious disease. Ideally facilities will be near the farm entrance and separated from other livestock buildings by at least 3 metres.
- If using a paddock for isolation keep it separated (with double fencing) by at least 3 metres from other animals on the farm.
- All animal transport vehicles bringing stock onto the farm must be fully cleaned and disinfected before and after use and ideally kept away from areas accessed by existing livestock.
- Dispose of bedding so other livestock can't access it.

People

- Control visitors to your farm and use your own staff whenever possible. Visitors should be kept away from livestock as far as possible.
- Visitors' vehicles should ideally be able to access the farm by a route not also used by the livestock. Parking areas should also be away from areas accessed by the livestock.
- Keep a written record, i.e. a visitors book, showing who visited and when, and what they did to which animals.
- Provide visitors with protective clothing, footwear and equipment that doesn't leave the farm if possible
- Have pressure washers, brushes, hoses, water and disinfectant available and make sure visitors use them.
- When you employ a contractor or additional staff, ensure that:
 - they have the appropriate licence if one is required and comply with any licence conditions
 - they wear protective clothing and footwear and disinfect themselves, their vehicles and their equipment on arrival and before departure.



Appendix AM.11 (continued)

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- Try to avoid the use of casual labour and helpers who have:
 - worked with livestock in a higher risk area in the preceding 7 days
 - worked with livestock in the same risk area on the same day
- Minimise visits to other farms.
 - If you or your staff have to make a visit try to avoid any contact with livestock there.
 - If you cannot avoid contact wear protective footwear and clothing which can be cleaned and disinfected, or laundered, before re-use.

Buildings

- Keep buildings as clean as practical and clean and disinfect thoroughly between batches or when stock are moved out to graze.
- Where practical, make buildings secure to prevent access by vermin which may be carrying disease. Keeping the immediate vicinity of buildings tidy will mean vermin are not readily harboured nearby to the stock and feed facilities.

Equipment

- Ensure any equipment used on animals is kept cleaned and disinfected.
- Provide your own equipment to be used only on your own farm. Do not lend it to, or share it with, anyone else.
- Where equipment is brought onto the farm, for example by contractors, ensure it is adequately cleaned and disinfected on arrival, especially if it has been brought from another farm.

Fencing

- Maintain stock fences to prevent your stock coming into contact with neighbours' livestock.

Stock

- Keep stock away from freshly spread slurry for six weeks.
- Dispose of fallen stock properly.