

Morven Farmer Action Group

On Farm Biosecurity – Top 11 Checklist

FARM STRUCTURE SETUP

1. Entry Point
 - Close off alternate entry points onto your farm to ensure access can be controlled.
2. Boundary Fence
 - Erect barrier/double fencing around farm borders to ensure that no nose-to-nose contact can occur with neighbouring animals or stock shifting along roadsides.
 - Consider risk points that may break the sanctity of this boundary fence i.e.;
 - i. Roadside Grazing
 - ii. Road Crossing
 - iii. Effluent run-off/spread
3. Biosecurity Farm Zoning
 - Map out your farm to identify;
 - i. Green Zone – Areas where no stock can/will enter. Considered part of the public environment i.e. tanker tracks, house driveways etc.
 - ii. Red Zone – Areas where stock graze. A no go zone for visitors/ machinery unless it has followed the processes below.
 - iii. Blue Zone – An intermediary area for things like pet food pick-up, suspicious cows, placement of foreign stock etc.

MANAGING ACCESS ON FARM

4. Boot Wash and Disinfection Point
 - Any people wishing to enter the red zone of your farm need to undertake effective disinfection. Entry begins with a Boot Wash and Disinfection Point.
 - Clear signage, clear protocols, foot baths, brushes etc should be set up (and regularly maintained).
 - To give prominence consider siting the entry wash/disinfection point at the start of the farm access track.
 - Consider having farm sign-in for H&S at this same point, along with a farm map of hazards and biosecurity zones.
 - Make sure that another wash and disinfection point is sited at/near the shed for when visitors leave.
5. Vehicles coming on Farm
 - To ensure that fomites (stuff that bugs can travel on) are not transferred (in or out) all vehicles that cross in or out of the red zone need to be clean, especially if they have been on other farms, or in contact with stock.
 - Request that contractors arrive with clean vehicles/agricultural equipment.
 - Provide the facilities (high pressure hose) for vehicle wash down and disinfection on a waste ground area.

- Where practical consider having a farm vehicle that stays in the red zone. This can be used to transport contractors where feasible.
6. Equipment Coming on Farms
- Avoid bringing equipment on farm that may harbour infectious agents.
 - Consider the risk of PPE (personal protective equipment), such as gumboots, milking sleeves and wet weather gear, that have been on other farms (local or international). Examples would include those worn by relief milkers, calf rearers, migrant workers etc.
 - Supplying and leaving gear on farm would be the gold standard. Also consider having some spare gear for visitors.
 - Apply disinfection processes for gear that is shared between farms i.e. calf pullers, stomach pumps, calf trailers, tractors etc.

STOCK MOVEMENTS AND ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

Things to consider before purchase, lease or sale of stock:

7. Incoming/Outgoing Stock Checklist

- Are the NAIT records for the animals complete and up to date?
- Can your agent supply a declaration of herd health status?
- Assess the level of risk – proximity, closed farm verse trader etc.

Movement of stock and animal by-products

8. Transport Trucks

- All trucks to arrive for loading in a clean state.
- Consider disinfection prior to loading. Target areas where nasal or oral secretions may have been deposited and then be subsequently licked or sniffed by your own stock.

9. Grazing Off Farm

- Talk to grazier about managing grazing plans to avoid nose-to-nose contact with other stock.
- Where feasible ensure a 24hr stand down period between shared use of yards occurs.
- Look to implement a red/green/blue zone, and biosecurity plan with graziers as per the plan for the platform – the same concepts apply to dry stock farms.

10. Animal By-products

- Milk, calf bedding and effluent can all carry infectious diseases. Therefore, they should be handled with caution and ideally not removed from farm.

Things to consider when animals arrive on farm:

11. Quarantine of New Stock

- All new stock arriving on farm should have a 7 day stand down period, before introduction to the existing herd (this includes returning heifers).
- Ideally this would be in a Blue Zone area (if feasible). If not, then contact with other stock should be avoided as a minimum.
- This stock should then be monitored for signs of disease – e.g. mastitis, lameness, abortion etc. Notify your vet or MPI if concerned (0800 00 83 33).