



ANIMAL SCIENCES AND FORAGES SERIES

TIMELY INFORMATION

Agriculture & Natural Resources

EXTENSION ANIMAL SCIENCES, ANN UPCHURCH HALL, AUBURN UNIVERSITY, AL 36849-5265

Biosecurity Precautions for a Confinement Animal Facility

W. F. “Frank” Owsley, Ph.D.
Extension Animal Scientist

Biosecurity is an important part of animal production, regardless of size, facilities and type of production. Animals in a closed group will develop immunity to strains of organisms in the group. High-health herds/flocks have little or no immunity to “typical” organisms, due to lack of exposure to these organisms. Few herds/flocks are immune to “new” or “exotic” strains of pathogens. Biosecurity procedures are required to prevent or reduce exposure to organisms or strains of organisms not present on a farm, and the potential catastrophic losses that can follow exposure.

Biosecurity in its simplest form is complete isolation from all forms of exposure. Although some have tried, it is rarely if ever practical. Any effective biosecurity plan will provide steps for minimizing contact with “outside” organisms by controlling contact with human and animals.

There are cases where you may have visitors at your farm. Make sure there is no acceptable alternative to an actual site visit. If there is no alternative, following these steps should minimize any negative impact your visitors may have on the health status of your animals.

1. Prior to the visit, make sure the visitors are aware of the biosecurity considerations for your farm.
2. All visitors should be dressed appropriately:
 - a. Provided clothing (coveralls and boots), or
 - b. Make sure visitors wear disposable coveralls and boots, or
 - c. Make sure visitors wear washable coveralls and rubber boots that have been cleaned and sanitized)
3. Do not allow visitors to enter structures (animal barns and offices) unless essential for their visit.
4. Make sure visitors follow the flow pattern you set for your farm
5. Show visitors the waste and mortality storage/treatment facilities after touring animal facilities.

Following these simple steps will help you meet your goals while minimizing the impact of visitors on the health of your animals. For more information on developing a biosecurity plan, contact your veterinarian or your local Extension office.