

Enhancing your on-farm biosecurity

Biosecurity practices and procedures reduce transmission of disease-causing organisms between and within farms. It is important to think about how disease can be introduced to your farm and how you may need to manage it when an outbreak happens. This may include how new animals are sourced, introduced and housed as well as the day-to-day steps for cleaning and disinfecting items like calf bottles, buckets and pens when moving or relocating animals around the farm.

Basic Cleaning & Disinfecting for Cattle Facilities

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

Some bacteria like Salmonella; despite being relatively easy to kill with disinfectant, excrete a thick protective biofilm that shields them from disinfectants. This biofilm protects the bacteria and can allow it to live in the environment for long periods of time; this makes the need to use an Alkaline Detergent (degreasing detergent) of utmost importance. In the event of a diagnosis of transmissible illness on a farm the following cleaning steps should be followed.

Effective cleaning involves:

1. **Remove All Organic Matter and Bedding**
2. **Apply Alkaline Detergent**
 - Allow to soak for up to 20 minutes without drying.
3. **Rinse Soap from Equipment**
4. **Allow to Dry** (as much as possible)
5. **Apply Appropriate Disinfectant** (labelled for Salmonella)
6. **Allow to Dry** (as much as possible)

Using a good quality alkaline degreasing detergent is recommended to penetrate the bacterial biofilm. Note that most dish liquids have a neutral pH, so make sure to check the label of the soap you choose; look for ALKALINE in the description. Also don't forget about tools such as scrapers, brooms and shovels that can spread manure and disease between groups of animals.

Some diseases are zoonotic (affect humans) and can be aerosolized using a pressure washer. It is recommended that in the event of such a diagnosis on farm you take precautions for yourself and your staff by using PPE (gloves, masks & coveralls) and using low pressure water to clean your equipment and facilities.

Stay safe and ensure the health of your herd by following these essential biosecurity procedures. If you notice signs of disease, please contact your veterinarian and/or your industry representative.

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