



# GROWING FORWARD

Think locally. Grow globally.

## **Biosecurity Basics** *for visitors to livestock operations*

- 1.** Farm biosecurity protocols are developed to control access, manage health and manage day-to-day production of herds and flocks. Know what biosecurity practices are in place and respect them. If biosecurity protocols are not posted, ask about them. Be aware that on-farm biosecurity practices may change from season to season.
- 2.** Dirty vehicles, boots, hands and clothing transmit disease. Simple things like clean boots, hands, clothes and vehicles when moving between farms greatly reduces the risk of disease transmission. Hands and boots should always be clean - on arrival and before leaving. If vehicles are dirty, visit a car wash before moving onto the next farm. Don't forget the floor mats! Fresh, clean coveralls reduce the risk of transmitting disease and are a visible part of caring about biosecurity. Doing laundry is a part of doing business.
- 3.** When visiting multiple operations in one day and if the health status of herds and flocks is known, plan visits starting with the healthiest groups first and those with known health problems last.
- 4.** Maintain daily records of farm visits and the order in which they were visited. Tracking movement of vehicles and people on and off farms helps with disease investigations and determining/eliminating potential sources of disease.
- 5.** When visiting farms, **BE CLEAR ABOUT WHERE YOU CAN AND CANNOT GO!**
- 6.** Be aware of signs controlling access to restricted or controlled areas. Movement between zones calls for a minimum of hand washing or change of gloves and **CLEAN BOOTS!**
- 7.** Keep the inside of vehicles clean. Garbage is a place for disease to hide and a source of contamination for clothes and boots.
- 8.** Follow all on-farm **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**. Respect closed doors and gates. Know whom to contact if anything abnormal is noticed.
- 9.** Zoonotic diseases - diseases transmitted between animals and people - can be transmitted via eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. Be careful about washing hands before or after touching the facial area.
- 10.** Don't walk through feed bunks or feed storage areas. Diseases can be transmitted in feed.
- 11.** Place all biological specimens or any samples removed from a livestock operation in secure, leak-proof containers and ensure the outsides of containers are properly disinfected.
- 12.** When washing, wash hands, wrists and forearms vigorously for at least 15 seconds. Keep nails short, don't wear nail polish and when working with animals, remove all jewellery.
- 13.** Always clean boots using water and suitable detergent. Organic matter renders most, if not all, disinfectants ineffective. To prevent re-contamination, clean boots near the vehicle. When clean, disinfect boots with a product like Virkon® spray and place in a separate tub or container away from other clean boots and coveralls.
- 14.** Before entering the vehicle to leave, remove coveralls and place them in a laundry bag or container dedicated for dirty coveralls. Dirty coveralls should not be worn again without being laundered.
- 15.** Sanitize hands before entering the vehicle. If an alcohol-based disinfectant is used, make sure hands are in contact with the solution for at least 30 seconds to ensure inactivation of bacteria and viruses.

*Remember: small things count!*

*Prepared and distributed by ARD Biosecurity Champions  
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