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Biosecurity Guidelines for Personnel Visiting Youth Livestock Projects

It is sometimes necessary for Extension personnel and volunteers to examine project animals at several locations on the same day. To prevent and control animal diseases, it is important for employees and volunteers to follow good management practices.

When planning to visit livestock facilities or farms to examine project animals, Extension personnel should follow these guidelines and refer to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Policy as necessary:

- Schedule as few farms as possible having the same species of animals on the same day. It would be better to visit one hog project, one lamb project, and one steer project on the same day rather than three hog projects.
- Visit full-time livestock farms first on a given day. The impact of a biosecurity breach is greater for a livestock production unit than a site where there is only a market project animal(s).
- Keep the number of people in the party to a minimum. For biosecurity, it would be better to have multiple small groups visiting different farms rather than one large group visiting all the farms.
- Use disposable plastic boots if the visit requires entering animal facilities. Wear coveralls if animal contact is possible. New disposable coveralls or clean reusable coveralls should be worn for each farm.
- Request that each farm supply as much equipment as possible for use with their own animals (nose-leads, snares, tattoo sets, tag applicators, buckets). Clean and disinfect all transported equipment before and after use at each location.
- Clean hands and exposed skin with antibacterial soap before and after handling animals.
- Wear disposable examination gloves whenever possible.
- Leave used disposable items (boots, coveralls, gloves) at the farm where they are used when possible. The owner can seal all the items in a plastic trash bag for easy disposal. Clean and contaminated items that need to be transported by the visitor should be placed in separate containers to prevent cross-contamination.

References:

Biosecurity Fundamentals for Extension Personnel, Gary L. Bowman, D.V.M. and William P. Shulaw, D.V.M. Ohio State University Extension Factsheet, 6/2001

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/vme-fact/0005.html>