

**West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Routine Biosecurity Measures for On-site Farm Visits
Or Other Livestock Concentration Points**

Biological security measures are becoming standard in many agricultural sectors. These controls, meant to minimize the risk of disease introduction and spread, can vary greatly according to operation and type of site visit. To address concerns from farm owners/producers, WVDA personnel must take steps to ensure a reasonable level of biosecurity measures, and those should be followed instead.

Minimum Biosecurity Measures

- Avoid livestock areas, pens, barns, etc., unless it is necessary to complete the goal of the visit.
- If practical, park your vehicle on paved or concrete areas, away from production sites on farm, to avoid contact with dirt, mud or manure.
- Wash hands with soap and water or an antibacterial gel before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents.

Biosecurity Levels

Routine levels of biosecurity measures are described below. When in doubt as to which level of biosecurity is needed, choose the higher level. These steps should be repeated for each premise that is visited.

Level 1 – Visits to farms that entail office or home visits only. No contact with livestock or their housing (including pet horse or work dog).

- Use the minimum measures outlined above.

Level 2 – Visits to farms where minimal contact with livestock or their housing (barns, pens, hutches, etc.) is unavoidable to attain the goal of the visit, i.e. property appraisals, tour of production facilities. Contact constitutes walking through animal housing or pastures where the animals are not within reach.

- Apply minimum biosecurity measures *plus*
- Immediately put on clean rubber or new plastic boots upon exiting the vehicle.
- After returning to your vehicle, clean and disinfect any equipment used with a brush and approved EPA disinfectant solution (see listed supplies)
- Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris.
- If wearing plastic boots, place them in a plastic bag that should be left on the premises for the owner/producer for disposal or place in a designated “dirty” (plastic bag) area of your vehicle.
- Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Unused disinfectant solution should not be discarded on the ground.

Level 3 – Visits to farms where there will be close contact with livestock. This includes contact such as walking through narrowly confined pens/lots where animals are within reach or actually handling/inspection of the animals.

- Pre-plan the needed supplies and clothing for daily visits. Use a pair of clean overalls for each premise.
- Clean and disinfect or place in a plastic bag all clothes or equipment that was used on the premises.
- If practical, park your vehicle on paved or concrete surfaces away from production facilities.
- Put on clean overalls and rubber boots or new disposable plastic boots immediately upon exiting the vehicle.
- After returning to your vehicle, clean and disinfect all equipment used (including eyewear) and place all disposable supplies in a plastic bag to leave with the owner/producer for disposal. If not possible, place plastic bag in “dirty” area of the vehicle and dispose of in a manner that prevents exposure to other livestock.
- Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Unused disinfectant solution should not be discarded on the ground.
- Remove coveralls so that they are inside out and place in a garbage bag.
- Place the clean equipment and boots in a designated “clean” area of the vehicle.
- At the end of the day, dispose of all plastic bags that contain dirty supplies in a manner that prevents exposure of livestock. Launder all coveralls. Personal hygiene should include shampooing hair and cleaning under fingernails.
- Level 3 procedures should be used while working or attending livestock events such as stockyards.

Supplies

Coveralls – cloth or tyvex
Boots – rubber or disposable plastic boots
Latex exam gloves
Large water container
EPA approved disinfectant
Such as: Virkon – S
Oxonia Active/Oxycept 333
Long handled brush
Trash bags
Paper towels
Spray bottle w/water
Liquid and/or get antibacterial soap
Bucket pail