

Biosecurity Procedures for farm visits to Animal Operations

Introduction:

When you have to make a farm visit to animal operations, you should always be aware of the possibility of carrying disease from one operation to another by unknowingly transporting infectious material or agents. The most common material is manure laying around the farmstead in walkways, farm lanes and applied in fields. You can easily come in contact with manure and have it stick to boots and clothing. Less obvious vectors are flies and other bugs, dust on clothing, and even unwashed hands. Opening closing gates and doors, brushing against walls and piles of manure, walking around buildings and a breeze blows up dust which covers you and your clothing, such routine activities during a visit can cause you to become contaminated.

For consultants, advisors, and sales people that deal with farm operations, a farm visit is usually an essential part of your interaction with clients. It provides useful insight to the management capabilities of clients, it provides visual information as to some of the resources they have available and most often it is just the most convenient place to meet with clients. It is your responsibility to know and follow the appropriate biosecurity procedures which are appropriate for the species of animal on the farms you are visiting. Practicing these procedures reflects a level of professionalism to your clients that will gain their respect regarding your concern for their operation.

The Office of Veterinary Services, located within the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the integrator with whom your client may participate both have biosecurity procedures established to be used during farm visits. The Nutrient Management Program at DCR has developed a biosecurity procedure for our department specialists to be using when visiting poultry operations. It has been reviewed by the Regional Field Veterinarian of the Harrisonburg office and is an acceptable biosecurity procedure to following after a visit to any animal operation, especially poultry operations. Click the following link to access the document. (*link*)

Decontamination Procedure Protocol:

DCR Biosecurity

Farm Hygiene Program Effective Immediately

- Respect all entrance prohibitions on poultry farms and /or barns
- Planners should not enter poultry houses under any circumstances. **NO Entrance on Infected premises or Infected Barn Under Any Conditions**
- Upon arrival at any poultry farm, report to the farm manager or responsible party. Call ahead if possible.
- Wash/sanitize hands immediately upon arrival before putting on disposable gloves, and again before leaving farm.
- Leave vehicles outside of poultry service areas. Walk! Keep vehicle windows closed.
- Avoid visiting two poultry farms within 48 hours.
- Wear Boots that can be disinfected, disposable gloves
- Put all litter samples into sealed plastic bags, spray outside of bag with Lysol and then put sample into second sealable plastic bag.
- All materials used on the site must be disinfected before and after use
- Boots should be dipped at the entrance and exit of every farm with Chlorox solution
- Spray all equipment with a mix of 8 oz of Chlorox/gallon of water until wet. Leave on for 30 seconds. Allow to air dry or dry off with disposable paper towels. Put gloves and paper towels in plastic trash bag and keep tightly sealed.
- Keep cleaned materials away from contaminated materials.
- Remove all dry litter, mud, straw etc from vehicle, especially wheels and wheel wells
- Spray wheels, tires and wheel wells with disinfection solution. Let drain and dry before moving. If dusty or wet, spray underside of vehicle. Alternative: park vehicle outside farm entrance and WALK!
- Process vehicle through car wash at the end of the day, which includes a complete undercarriage wash.

Every Animal Operation Every Time!