

BIOSECURITY / SECURITY CHECKLIST
For the Horse Owner, Horse Farm/Facility Manager

EQUINE INDUSTRY

Biosecurity and security are part of an all-hazards approach to Equine Safety

BE PREPARED

- Create a Biosecurity plan for your equine farm/facility, to be included with your Emergency Plan.
 - For additional information on biosecurity, review the following websites: (<http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/Emergency.pdf>, www.animalagriculture.org, www.avma.org .
 - For assistance with these plans, contact the New Jersey Department of Agriculture – Division of Animal Health at 609-292-3965.
- Talk with your county Emergency Management Coordinator. Let him/her know about your farm's/facility's needs and concerns, in the event of a disaster or emergency. Learn about your county's disaster and emergency evacuation procedures and incorporate the following into your plan:
 - Understand the hazards/risks associated with your area.
 - Understand how and where to evacuate your animals, family and workers or how to provide care if relocation is not feasible.
 - Understand the notifications indicating this condition.
 - Develop an emergency disaster travel kit for your animals. (See www.NJHomelandSecurity.gov/animals *Plain Talk on Protecting Pets/Livestock* brochures for more information.)
 - Understand how to shelter-in-place.
 - Understand the notifications indicating this condition.
 - Develop procedures to implement if there is a breach in security concerning your farm/facility.
- Develop a list of important phone numbers, with contact names, such as the following: (keep at an on-site and off-site location)
 - Police / Fire / EMS: 9-1-1
 - Farm's/Facility's Veterinarian
 - Local Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Agent

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BE PREPARED (continued)

- Local Health Dept.
- County Emergency Management Coordinator
- NJ Dept. of Agriculture – Division of Animal Health, 24-hrs (609-292-3965)
- NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services
- Emergency Notification List/Phone Tree, including after hours numbers (e.g. owner, supervisors, workers, vendors, suppliers, etc.).

BE ALERT

- Maintain awareness of the location of visitors and vendors.
 - Post signs to inform visitors of rules to follow while on the premises.
 - Monitor and document all visits and visitors to your farm/facility.
 - Avoid taking visitors to livestock areas or barns, unless appropriately supervised.
- Notify authorities of people taking unauthorized pictures or asking questions about operations, security, etc.
- Watch for and report signs of tampering with equipment, feed, medications, water, products, buildings and utilities.
 - Have written procedures on steps to take if you suspect or find evidence of contamination or tampering with feed, medications, equipment, etc., within your operations.
- Watch for unusual signs that may indicate possible bioterrorism.
 - Unusually high number of sick animals, deaths or abortions.
 - Abnormal or unusual signs not typically seen for a particular disease.
 - Disease occurrence outside of its normal expected season.
 - Unusual route of exposure suspected.
 - Illnesses/deaths occur in a short timeframe.
 - Multiple species of animals are sick, e.g. barn cats, rodents, etc.
 - Both the owner/worker and animal are ill.
- Talk with your Veterinarian or Extension Agent about the symptoms of various foreign animal and equine diseases and pathogens.
 - Immediately report unusual signs of disease or unexpected deaths among your horses to your Veterinarian, Extension Agent or State Veterinarian.
- Maintain situational awareness of world events and on-going threats.
- Train employees to be alert, vigilant with their surroundings, and to notify you if they see suspicious activity.

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BE SECURE

- ❑ Limit access to farm/facility and secure entrances and sensitive areas, when not in use.
 - Limit access to farm/facility to one gated road.
 - ❑ Keep the gate locked when not in use.
 - Keep storage areas and feed bins locked.
- ❑ Limit access to the water/electrical supply.
 - If feasible, secure them to prevent tampering.
- ❑ Plan alternate means for electrical power.
 - Assess the entire equine operation for generator needs, including water systems and fuel.
 - ❑ Inspect, calibrate, and test generators under load.
- ❑ Implement a security policy and security measures for deliveries.
 - Purchase feed and all other supplies from known, reputable firms/individuals.
 - ❑ Inspect feed and supplies for tampering, contamination, and spoilage.
 - ❑ Do not accept damaged or questionable deliveries or items.
 - ❑ Plan for alternate feeding strategies.
 - Require deliveries to be transported in company-identified vehicles.
 - Restrict deliveries to scheduled appointments.
- ❑ Maintain accurate and up-to-date inventories, especially on hazardous and perishable materials. Investigate discrepancies immediately.
 - Keep invoices on file.
- ❑ Conduct pre-employment screening for all prospective employees.
- ❑ Keep vehicles and equipment locked and keys secured, when not in use.
- ❑ Maintain adequate lighting and security measures.
 - Report any repairs that need to be made and follow up to see that they are completed.
- ❑ Restrict access to computers and sensitive documents.
 - Protect computer data with virus protection.
- ❑ Shred sensitive documents before discarding.
- ❑ Train employees in security procedures, notifying you if they detect a breach in security.

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BE CLEAN

- ❑ Keep chemicals, medications, and hazardous materials separate from consumable products.
 - Secure and restrict these areas.
- ❑ Limit access to sensitive areas and require visitors/vendors to follow posted rules.
 - Avoid unnecessary traffic to highly susceptible animal areas (e.g. where broodmares and foals are kept) and storage areas.
- ❑ Follow sanitary practices to eliminate the spread of disease. This applies to people, as well as equipment.
 - Utilize clean outer garments/coveralls and washable footwear when entering farm facilities or moving between barns.
 - Place “dirty” outer garments in a plastic bag and disinfect footwear after farm work is completed.
 - Park vehicles away from barns and animal areas, preferably on concrete.
 - Avoid the transfer of dirt, mud or manure by vehicles and equipment.
 - Do not use manure-handling equipment to handle or move feed.
 - Provide hand-washing facilities.
 - Encourage thorough hand washing with disinfectant soap after the handling of each individual animal.
- ❑ Minimize animals’ direct exposure to wildlife, insects, rodent, bird, and other animal species, which could be the potential source of disease transmission.
- ❑ Isolate all new animals and keep separate from other on-farm animals.
 - Avoid sharing feeder, waterers, halters or grooming equipment with resident horses.
 - Call your veterinarian immediately if signs of unusual illness are noticed.
- ❑ Prevent the spread of disease.
 - Maintain appropriate vaccinations.
 - Handle/feed susceptible animals first (broodmares/foals).
 - Handle/feed sick animals last.
- ❑ Train employees on common disease signs and patterns, so they will recognize unusual illness in animals.
- ❑ Train employees to be clean and to notify you if they see discrepancies.

Keep the Garden State Safe

BE CURRENT

- ❑ Train employees on the biosecurity/emergency plans and the proper response. Practice emergency drills with your employees and with the entire facility.
- ❑ Review and update your biosecurity plan.
 - After each drill, if necessary.
 - Every year.

NOTIFY/CALL

- ❑ If suspicious activity is suspected, notify the facility owner and call local law enforcement and 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ.
- ❑ If unusual signs of disease, illness or deaths are observed at your farm/facility, notify your Veterinarian, local Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Agent, and the NJ Dept. of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health (609-292-3965).
- ❑ Train employees to notify you if there are concerns/problems.
 - If tampering/contamination/illness are suspected, isolate the suspected feed and/or animals
 - Monitor animals and facilities until authorities arrive.
- ❑ Train your employees to Be Alert, Be Secure, Be Clean and Notify/Call.