

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

CATTLE INDUSTRY

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

BE PREPARED

- Create a Biosecurity plan for your farm/facility, to be incorporated into your Emergency Plan.
 - For additional information on biosecurity, review the following websites:
(www.animalagriculture.org, www.kla.org, www.utextension.utk.edu)
 - 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.
 - Depending on the size of your operation, develop plans on how to and where to evacuate your animals, family and workers or how to provide care if relocation is not feasible.
 - Understand how you will be notified.
 - For appropriately sized operations, develop an emergency disaster travel kit for your animals. (See www.NJHomelandSecurity.gov/animals *Plain Talk on Protecting Livestock/Pets* brochures for more information.)
 - 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
 - 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.).

Keep the Garden State Safe

BE ALERT

- ❑ Maintain awareness of the location of visitors.
 - 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 necessary and then 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, water, buildings and utilities.
 - Have written procedures on steps to take if you suspect or find evidence of contamination or tampering with feed, equipment, etc.
- ❑ 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.
 - Illnesses/deaths occurring in a short timeframe.
 - Multiple species of animals are sick/dead, e.g. cattle, barn cats, rodents, etc.
 - Both people and animals are ill.
- ❑ Talk with your Veterinarian or Extension Agent about the symptoms of various foreign animal and bovine diseases and pathogens.
 - Immediately report unusual signs of disease or unexpected deaths among your cattle to your Veterinarian, Agricultural Extension Agent, State Veterinarian or USDA.
- ❑ 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.

BE SECURE

- ❑ Establish Standard Operating Procedures for all areas of your operations.
- ❑ 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.

Keep the Garden State Safe

BE SECURE (continued)

- ❑ Plan alternate means for electrical power.
 - Assess the entire bovine 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.

BE CLEAN

- ❑ Keep chemicals, medications, and hazardous materials separate from consumable products.
- ❑ Limit access to sensitive areas and require visitors to follow posted rules.
 - Avoid unnecessary traffic to highly susceptible animal areas and storage areas.
- ❑ Have everyone follow sanitary practices to eliminate the spread of disease.
 - Utilize clean outer garments/coveralls and washable footwear when entering farm facilities or moving between barns.

Keep the Garden State Safe

BE CLEAN (continued)

- Place “dirty” outer garments in a plastic bag and disinfect footwear after farm work is completed.
- Provide hand-washing facilities.
 - Encourage thorough hand washing with disinfectant soap after handling each animal.
- Provide appropriate personal protection equipment, depending on the work areas.
- Park vehicles away from barns and animal areas, preferably on concrete.
- Avoid the transfer of dirt, mud or manure by vehicles and equipment by thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting them, including tires and underbody.
 - Do not use manure-handling equipment to handle or move feed.
- Minimize the cattle’s direct exposure to wildlife, insects, rodents, birds, 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, for at least 30 days.
 - Have health papers signed by the origin herd’s veterinarian, when purchasing any animals.
 - Avoid sharing feeders, waterers, etc.
 - Call your veterinarian immediately if signs of unusual illness are noticed.
- Prevent the spread of disease.
 - Maintain appropriate vaccinations.
 - Observe all animals at least once daily for signs of disease, including lameness, loss of appetite, salivation, lethargy, or sudden death.
 - If noticed, have a veterinarian examine the animal and the herd.
 - Obtain a post-mortem examination on any unexplained death.
 - Handle/feed susceptible animals first.
 - 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.

BE CURRENT

- Train employees on your biosecurity/emergency plans and their proper response.
- Review and update your biosecurity plan.
 - After each drill, if necessary.
 - Every year.

Keep the Garden State Safe

NOTIFY/CALL

- ❑ If suspicious activity is suspected call local law enforcement and 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ.
- ❑ If unusual signs of disease, illness or deaths are observed at the farm/facility, notify the farm's/facility's 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.