

“Creating an Informative Survey as a Learning Tool to Aid Dairy Farmers in Identifying Risk Factors Associated with the Spread of a Highly Contagious Foreign Animal Disease”

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This project focuses on developing a survey as a learning tool to help farmers assess all risk factors for a foreign animal disease, particularly a highly contagious disease such as foot-and-mouth disease. It is important that farmers are able to identify risk factors associated with their farms in order to understand how and where a disease can enter. Knowing these factors and making changes to reduce them can decrease the chance of spread if an outbreak occurs. The survey will be constructed by first, gathering key risk factors found from scientific literature and categorizing these risk factors in appropriate farm design groups (farms based on type and/or size). Examples of risk factors include poor biosecurity measures, vehicle traffic, visitor traffic, poor farmer-to-employee communication, and so on. Questions, asking the farmer if these factors exist on their farm or not, will then be arranged in the Articulate 09 Quizmaker program (a survey generating software). At the end of the survey, a summary page will help farmers see as a whole, all risk factors present on their farms and suggestions on how to address these factors. When the survey is fully designed, it will be evaluated by both farmers and veterinarians. Farmers can evaluate it by seeing if the survey serves its purpose as a learning tool and veterinarians can assess it to see if all risk factors they find important are mentioned in the survey. After being evaluated, the survey will then be distributed via a website where the survey will be posted for dairy farmers state wide, and it will hopefully serve as a learning tool that is helpful and relatable to all dairy farms.