

# Biosecurity Considerations for Dairy or Livestock Farm Service Providers & Extension Personnel

Revised May 2025

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Prevention of the spread of livestock disease is the responsibility of anyone who works with or on farms. Be prepared to take the appropriate measures to protect the farms you visit and minimize the risk of introducing disease.

## When visiting any livestock farm:

1. *Educate yourself:* have an understanding of the current disease risk in your area and beyond.
  - [USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#)
  - [State of Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets](#)
2. *Communicate* with the producer: understand existing biosecurity measures, protocols, and expectations prior to your visit. Establish permission to visit the premise.
3. *Sanitize everything:*
  - wear disposable, single use plastic boot covers (6ml thickness) or sanitize boots upon entering the farm premise and when leaving with approved chemicals.
    - [United States Environmental Protection Agency Approved Chemicals](#)
  - Sanitize any sampling equipment upon entering and leaving the farm.
  - Wear disposable gloves when handling animals, feed or manure. Wash hands with soap and water.
  - Avoid direct contact with livestock when possible.
4. *Avoid cross contamination* from traveling between animal feeding areas, feed storage, milking facilities or milk transfer areas and animal housing.
  - Limit farm visits to one farm per day or wear disposable coveralls or change clothing between visits
  - Park in identified parking areas. Avoid driving in feeding areas, feed storage areas, milk transfer areas, equipment traffic lanes or animal housing. Vehicle tires should be clean and free from organic matter.

**Make biosecurity practices easy:** if you visit farms frequently keep a prepared tote in your vehicle with the supplies that you may need. Practice “leave no trace,” and plan on disposing of waste as needed:

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|--|--|
| • Clean boots                                  | • Disposable, single-use,                            |
| • Sanitizing chemicals for boots and equipment | plastic boot covers                                  |
| • Scrub brush                                  | • Wash bucket or tub                                 |
| • Disposable gloves                            | • Clean clothing, coveralls, or disposable coveralls |
| • Trash bags                                   | • Hand sanitizer                                     |



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## When planning for and facilitating on farm events or workshops:

- Only do so with owner permission and if the producer is comfortable with opening their farm to the public. Consider the risk level of the participant audience for the event:
  - *Low risk*: event participants present very little risk of introducing disease to the farm because they have no other livestock contact and do not frequently visit farms.
  - *Moderate risk*: event participants present some risk of introducing disease to the farm because they regularly work on farms but have little to no contact with livestock or feed and follow biosecurity protocols during their farm visits.
  - *High risk*: event participants present risk of introducing disease to the farm because they are regularly in direct contact with livestock.
- Communicate with the producer and participants prior to the event about biosecurity measures, protocols, and expectations for the event.
- Provide biosecurity signage to the producer as needed. Establish and communicate boundaries for where participants may and may not have access to on the farm. Printable signage is available: [Farmers Assuring Responsible Management: Biosecurity](#).
- Clearly label or communicate where participants should park. Avoid vehicles driving in feeding areas, feed storage, milk transfer areas, equipment traffic lanes, or animal housing. All vehicle tires should be clean and free from visible organic matter.
- Provide disposable, single-use plastic boots for all participants. Boots should not be removed during the event and should be replaced if they become damaged at any time while in use.
- Provide waste collection and disposal of used plastic boots upon conclusion of the event.
- Avoid direct contact between participants and livestock.
- Provide hand sanitizer or hand washing stations to participants.
- Avoid participant travel between animal feeding areas, feed storage, milking facilities or transfer areas and animal housing.
- Be flexible in planning for your event and be prepared to cancel if concern or risk increases.
- Collect contact information for all participants in case follow up communication is needed.

Additional farm biosecurity resources, training, and information:

[Healthy Farms Healthy Agriculture](#)

[National Milk Producers Federation- Dairy Cattle Biosecurity for H5N1 Virus](#)

[National Milk Producers Federation- H5N1 in Dairy Cattle](#)

**For more information**, please contact Heather Darby, University of Vermont, [heather.darby@uvm.edu](mailto:heather.darby@uvm.edu) or 802-782-6054 or Amber Machia, University of Vermont, [amber.machia@uvm.edu](mailto:amber.machia@uvm.edu) or 802-355-2653.

Revised May 2025 by the University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program.

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