



Farm Visit/Inspection (Bio-Security Protocol)

Effective January 2014

24/7 Awareness

Key Concepts

- We will always apply a common sense approach to reduce the risk of transferring hazards between farms
- We acknowledge the risks are different for plants and livestock
- Hazards are always present, under even “normal” conditions
- We will never knowingly enter a farm or facility where there is a known outbreak of disease

Reduce the Risk of Transferring Hazards Between Farms

There is no such thing as zero risk!!

Bacterial, viral, fungal, protozoan pathogens, parasites and pests; different risks and preventions

We understand that contact with livestock/plants or entering the barn/greenhouse are critical risk factors

Direct contact with secretions or waste material is usually needed for transmission
(*i.e. manure on boots and clothing*)

Scope of Our Protocol

Our major emphasis is on livestock and greenhouse facilities. Risk is considered lower for most crop situations but we understand it is still present. We understand it is important to be consistent and set an example within our industry.

Equipment Used by Our Staff

- Washable rubber or disposable boots
- Plastic pail and boot brush
- Vicron disinfectant
- Disposable coveralls for each visit
- Germicidal hand lotion
- Garbage bags
- Paper towels
- Rubber mats which are washed and disinfected daily
- Loss prevention tools and equipment which are wiped down daily with disinfectant
- Vehicle interior and exterior are kept clean of contaminated material

Bio-Security Alert Levels

Under everyday (normal) conditions the basic minimum protocol applies, however we do understand that in a disease outbreak or emergency situation, additional precautions and restrictions may apply.

General Procedure

Protocol to be in effect whenever entering an agricultural operation

Completing a loss prevention inspection means being in attendance on the agricultural operation, including compounds, laneways, in and out of all buildings and structures, rooms, pens, walkways, electrical and equipment rooms or any areas which may contain or be susceptible to contamination by biological hazards that could cause harm to agricultural plants or animals.

General Procedure at time of arrival

- Our staff will always park their vehicles away from the barn, traffic areas and feed storage, and not under ventilation inlet/exhaust (i.e. avoiding contamination)
- Does the operation have a bio-security protocol? If it does we will try to accommodate those additional measures required by the producer within reason
- Put on your disposable protective clothing and footwear upon arrival, prior to entering contaminated areas
- Clean washable or disposable footwear must be worn when on the premises where there is a reasonable risk of contamination
- Only enter livestock or greenhouse facilities once you have obtained permission from the owner or manager of the operation
- Once you have entered the livestock or greenhouse operation housing the animals or plants avoid any direct handling focusing your direct attention to inspecting the electrical and mechanical equipment
- Disposable coveralls must be worn when in contact with livestock or in the livestock housing facilities; the same is requirement when in any greenhouse operation when in contact with plants
- Wear clothing, footwear and other equipment provided by the farm operator when possible

General Procedure final clean up when leaving the facility

- Leave your disposable materials with the facility owner/manager, or store in a sealed plastic bag for later disposal (it recommended contaminated disposable clothing be left at each operation to avoid any transfer from occurring)
- Always clean your boots and equipment prior to leaving the facility (store in a sealed container for additional disinfecting at the end of the day), also wash and disinfect hands before leaving and entering your vehicle
- Always wipe down loss prevention equipment after completing your inspection and leaving the operation

Additional Bio-security Measures

- In some instances additional measures may be required for certain operations such as confined livestock (Poultry and Swine) were we may be asked to give a minimum of 48 hours between visits
- Even with our use of disposable clothing and disinfecting footwear we may be asked to shower in/out of facilities

This protocol is virtually identical to the protocol/practices used by members of the Agricultural Ministry of Food, Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Environment and the Chief Veterinary Officer.